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SEE WHAT'S NEW... CHECK OUT OUR LATEST OFFER ON PAGE 31

SUPERBAD

EVERY HERO NEEDS A VILLAIN. THESE REAL-LIFE SUPER VILLAINS KEEP THE SUPERHEROES HONEST PAGES 22-23

CALGARY metro®
Thursday, April 26, 2012
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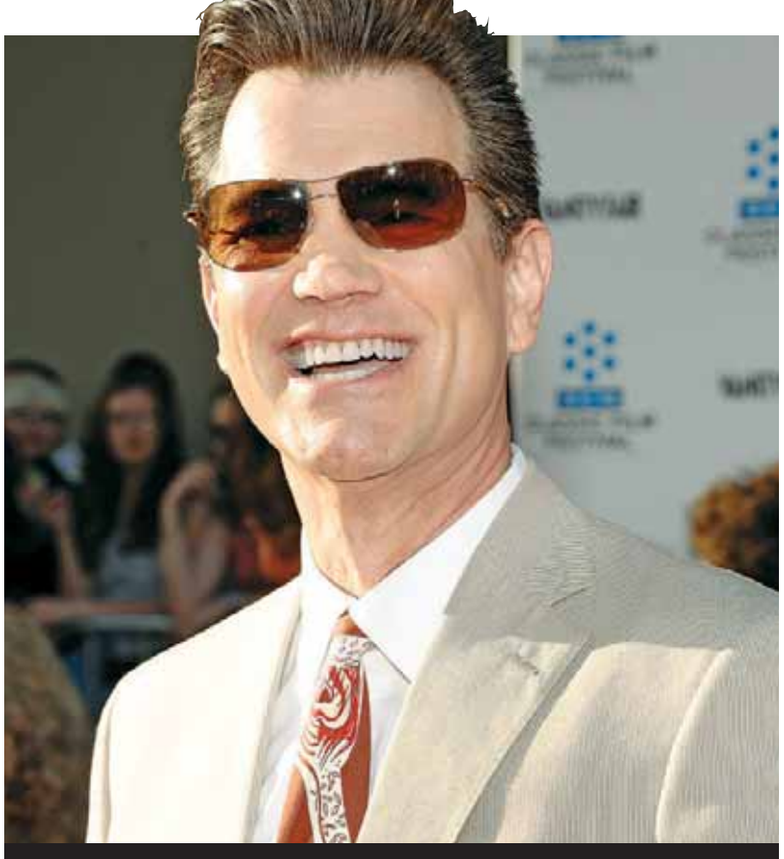

WICKED ACT

Singer Chris Isaak, seen here at a feature film opening last April, will be one of the headline acts at the 2012 Calgary Folk Music Festival. Story, page 10. DAN STEINBERG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Speeding ahead with impaired driving laws

Challenge. Cohort of legal representatives preparing to fight measures in court

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Alcohol-impaired drivers in Alberta will be met with harsher penalties by summer's end, says the solicitor general.

Jonathan Denis, who held the public-security-focused post prior to the recent provincial election campaign, says the plan is to introduce immediate, indefinite suspensions for .08 violations by the first week of July and three-day vehicle seizures for .05 violations by the end of August.

"I am not against drinking, just drinking and driving," Denis said.

The incumbent narrowly defeated Wildrose candidate and lawyer Richard Jones in Monday's provincial ballot. Jones had claimed the new legislation would turn average Albertans into criminals before they were ever convicted.

But criticism of the measures remains.

Local defence lawyer Ian Savage said he and a number of colleagues will be fully prepared to challenge the .08 measure this summer.

"We will wait until a client is charged and suspended and then take that as a test case to court," he said.

A British Columbia judge did deem a move towards 90-day suspensions for .08 violators in that province unconstitutional in December.

"At the end of the day if somebody wants to challenge something in court, that's their right," he said.

Police services in both Calgary and Edmonton contacted by Metro Wednesday said they had not been provided with a specific timeline for rolling out the legislation.

Breastaurants busting out

A new type of dining establishment is popping up in Calgary, offering more than what's on the menu PAGE 6

Buying a new home soon?

We have tips for first-time home buyers, including what you should be asking about PAGE 40

Bruins bounced

There will be a new Stanley Cup champ — Boston has been knocked out by Washington PAGE 53

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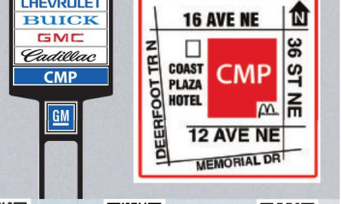

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Back in time: Pop-culture devotees revving up for expo

A Back to the Future-style DeLorean pulls into town at the Marriott Hotel Wednesday for the Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Missing couple lucky to find retreat: Cabin owners

Wilderness. Fort Macleod pair were rescued after three-day search last week

JEREMY NOLAIS
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Owners of a B.C. cabin where a stranded Alberta couple took shelter until they were rescued last week say the pair is fortunate to be alive.

Margaret Coccilo with Total Outdoor Adventures learned shortly after Fort Macleod's Anja and Jacob Oosterwijk were rescued from a remote southeast B.C. area April 16 that the pair had broken a window in their Sulfur Creek Cabin and climbed inside.

"It's in the middle of nowhere," she told Metro. "I don't how they ended up where they did, but this is the wilderness. They very well could have become bear bait."

The Oosterwijks were en route to Fernie for a day trip April 14 when their vehicle became stuck.

The couple was forced to trudge through knee-deep snow for hours before finding the cabin. A radio inside allowed them to eventually call for help.

Quoted

"It's in the middle of nowhere.... They very well could have become bear bait."

Cabin owner Margaret Coccilo

Since returning home, the couple has downplayed any danger they faced, saying they relied on their faith and were more worried about their seven children back in Fort Macleod.

Reached at home Tuesday night, Anja said the couple was slowly settling in after their ordeal.

"We are getting back to normal life," she said.

The Oosterwijks have offered to cover the cost of repairs to the cabin.

1 NEWS

On the web

He be jammin'

Barack Obama hit the late-night TV circuit (to mixed reviews). Watch Obama slow-jam a stump speech with Jimmy Fallon at metronews.ca

Screeners cashing in?

U.S. Transportation Security Administration screeners accused of taking bribes to allow drugs through Los Angeles' airport have been charged in a corruption probe. An indictment outlines five incidents in which the employees allegedly took up to $2,400 to provide drug couriers unfettered access. Full story at metronews.ca

Mobile news

A quote from a Dr. Seuss book about a turtle trying to assert his rights is too political for students who shouldn't be caught in the middle of an ongoing teachers' dispute, says a school administrator in Prince Rupert, B.C. Scan the code for the story.

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St. Patrick's Island plan revealed

Redevelopment. Two U.S. landscaping firms have won contract to create urban paradise

CANDICE WARD
calgary@metronews.ca

The Calgary Municipal Land Corp. unveiled its $45-million plans for the revitalization of St. Patrick's Island on Wednesday, with two U.S. firms taking on the landscaping development.

"We liked their approach right from the start," said Michael Brown, CMLC president and CEO.

"Their interpretation of our vision was right on the mark and reflects what the public has told us over and over again. Calgarians want St. Patrick's Island to retain its natural beauty, but also want to make the island safer, more accessible and more user-friendly."

New York-based W Architecture and Landscape Architecture and Denver-based CIVITAS were chosen as the two firms, beating out several North American firms that bid for the commission.

"This will be a park for all Calgarians to enjoy," Brown said.

The development will be a small island with a big idea, said Mark Johnson, CIVITAS founder.

"We want to restore the island so that it's a place to celebrate near where the city began," Johnson said. "Our goal is to create a living island."

The proposed core developments include restoring the lagoon between St. Patrick's Island and St. George's Island, enhanced river access, a watercraft launching and landing area, nature trails and boardwalks, festival and performance spaces and informal picnicking and play areas.

On the waterfront

- The project is slated for completion by fall 2014. The new pedestrian bridge should be finished by fall of next year.
- To view the plans, go to metronews.ca.

Barbara Wilks of the firm W Architecture and Landscape Architecture is flanked by Michael Brown, CEO of the Calgary Municipal Land Corp., left, and Mark Johnson, CIVITAS founder, near St. Patrick's Island on Wednesday. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

'Urban camouflage' coming to city LRT station

A conceptual drawing of what Sunnyside LRT station will look like when construction winds up this fall. CONTRIBUTED/CALGARY TRANSIT

LRT stations can be more than just a place for trains to come and go, says a Calgary alderman, who points to design work at one such stop as proof.

When construction is completed at Sunnyside LRT station this fall, it will feature not only an extended platform to service four-car trains — scheduled to start running in 2014 — but it will also house a performance stage, triangle parks with seating and other amenities.

"It's really cool," said Ald. Druh Farrell, whose ward includes the station. "It's really the way we should have built our system."

The design comes through consultation with members of Bow to Bluff, an independent citizen group dedicated to creating public spaces in Calgary.

"The big thing here is the community consultation we did," said Calgary Transit spokesperson Stephen Tauro. "Given the close proximity to homes … (the design) could be described as a sort of urban camouflage."

Farrell said new LRT stations along the western leg and downtown are being created in a more stylish manner and she supports further retroactive esthetic work on other stations as well.

"They should really be community focal points," she said.

Tauro said Sunnyside is currently the only station being given such creative licence but added redesigns are being debated for other stations such as Banff Trail, as well.

JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

A 'destination' station

- Calgary Transit is in the middle of a nearly $80-million extension of the platforms at 15 stations. The construction offers the chance to explore added design features at Sunnyside, spokesperson Stephen Tauro said.
- The performance platform at Sunnyside LRT will likely showcase local artists and be used as a gathering place for area events, Ald. Druh Farrell said.

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Pass the gumballs, paint our mayor

It will be a tasty piece of art.

Mayor Naheed Nenshi's smiling face will be featured in a portrait created by Pennsylvania artist Franz Spohn and made entirely of … gumballs.

In conjunction with the International Children's Festival next month, the Museum of Contemporary Art (MOCA) in Calgary has commissioned Spohn to create a 78-inch-by-78-inch portrait with the help of community members.

"We wanted to provide something that would be inspiring and different for an art education activity," said MOCA's artistic director, Jeffrey Spalding.

Ahead of the May 23-26 festival, Spohn will be at MOCA on May 19 and Calgarians will have a chance to make calculated placements of gumballs in the plastic tubes that run along the portrait.

As for the mayor's reaction? "Sticky and weird, but really cool," he said.

The portrait will be assembled during an open house at MOCA on May 19 between 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. and can be viewed at the MOCA gallery during the festival.

KATIE TURNER/METRO

Mayor Naheed Nenshi thinks the gumball idea is "really cool." METRO FILE

New city pub offers froth with the beer

Well, call it a dress code. But the servers' outfits are raising eyebrows — and some concerns over women's rights

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

Plans are set to open a new Irish pub in Calgary that appears to offer a little more than traditional Celtic fare, but not everyone's so eager to stop by.

Chad Howse, a franchisee and managing partner with Tilted Kilt has already opened a location in Edmonton and is moving to add a similar venue along Calgary's busy 17th Avenue entertainment stretch just in time for Stampede.

But the outfits worn by Tilted Kilt servers were recently used as the centrepiece of a Maclean's piece on "breastaurants."

And they are also raising some concerns among woman's rights advocates.

Each features a tied-off white shirt that leaves the server's midriff exposed as well as a kilt that is shorter than the traditional variety.

"No shoes, no shirts, no service — but a woman's bare stomach is OK?" questioned Jane Drover, a woman's literature professor at Mount Royal University.

"Woman are now more vulnerable than ever to the whims of an employer; it's part of a larger erosion."

Howse conceded the chain's outfits are revealing, but said the difference is each of his servers has a personality and will actually sit down and talk with clients as they dine.

"What we are doing is no different than anyone else," he added.

New on 17th Avenue

There's more than beer and wine at the Tilted Kilt.

- **One.** Calgary's Tilted Kilt will cover about 6,000 square feet and replace Bob the Fish Tavern along 17th Avenue.
- **Two.** Edmonton's Tilted Kilt, which opened in December, was the first of its kind in Canada but there are more than 60 locations in the U.S.
- **Three.** The organization eyes opening six locations in the Toronto area by the end of 2013.

Hi, there: This waitress is sporting the traditional attire to be seen at the Tilted Kilt. COURTESY OF FISHMAN PUBLIC RELATIONS

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HOW A CREDIT CARD CAN HELP NEWLYWEDS FURNISH THEIR FIRST HOME

NEWLYWEDS

Ali and Fatima, both 29, are newlyweds living in Ottawa. In the fall, they used their wedding gift money to put a substantial down payment on a bungalow in the Elmvale Acres area of the city. The house has a small yard, an unfinished basement and "tons of potential," says Ali, who intends to finish it himself.

The couple is in good financial shape. Ali has a government job downtown while Fatima works for an association. Their combined annual income is $80,000.

They have a budget they can live with and their debt is manageable — along with the mortgage, Ali's student loan will be paid off in five years and their car is leased. What also helps is they receive financial help periodically from Ali's parents who live nearby.

Ali and Fatima are having fun furnishing their house, and they have an eye on the future too — children, a bigger house and "definitely, annual vacations south," says Fatima.

The couple has a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* cash back credit card, which they use for as many of their monthly purchases as possible. In fact, they just bought a new big screen TV and put the purchase on their card, earning them some valuable cash back.

The card gives Ali and Fatima 2 per cent cash back on everyday spending such as gas, groceries, drugstore items, and recurring bill payments, and 1 per cent cash back on all other eligible purchases. The cash back lump sum is automatically deposited into their savings account every November. While the *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card has a nominal annual fee of $39, its cash back earnings is more than worth it, says Fatima.

Their card has a $5,000 credit limit, and they try to pay off the balance every month because they like to have the credit available "just in case," says Ali. Their card also comes with tons of other features and benefits, such as Purchase Security and Extended Warranty Protection, that give the couple peace of mind when paying by credit card.

Scotia Momentum® Cash Back Calculator

Ali and Fatima's profile:

Ali and Fatima use their *Scotia Momentum*® VISA* card to pay for about $1,200 worth of purchases a month. Some fixed costs, such as their property taxes, are not payable by credit card and therefore not included in these calculations.

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Other		$ 580
	Total Monthly	**$ 1,200**

Ali and Fatima's Estimated Annual *Scotia Momentum*® Cash Back

Ali and Fatima have a *Scotia Momentum*® VISA card (the card below on the left). Here's a look at the cash back their purchases add up to with their card — and a comparison with what their cash back would add up to if they had the *Scotia Momentum*® No-Fee VISA card (the card on the right).

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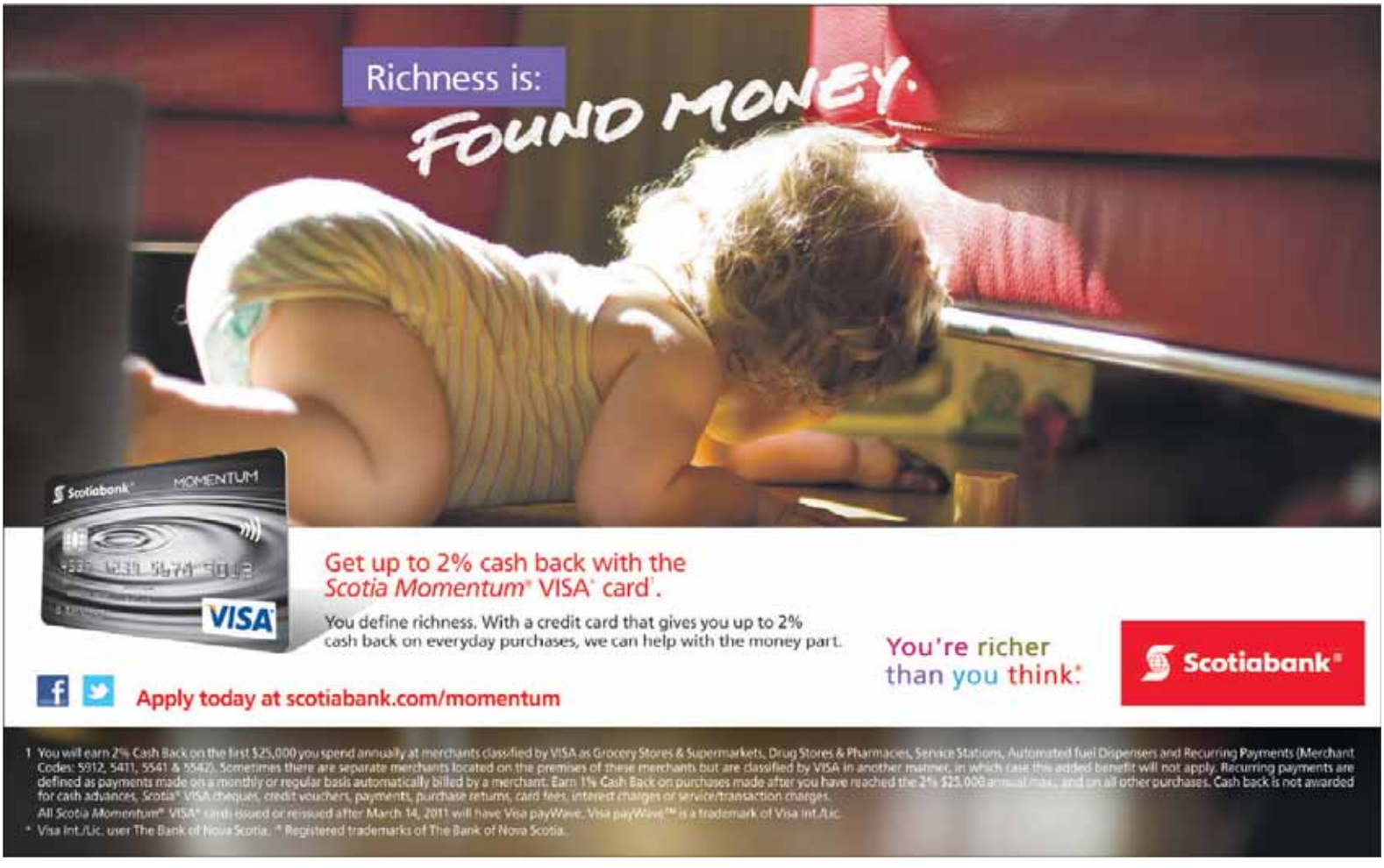
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Facing adversity, from Congo to Calgary

Struggle. Immigrants' qualifications often disputed when they arrive in Canada, advocacy groups say

JEREMY NOLAIS
jeremy.nolais@metronews.ca

He survived two civil wars, managed a factory devoted to processing a valuable mineral and raised seven kids, but Calgary is where Pontien Tshibangu admits he's really struggling.

"I am a chemical engineer," he explained with pride in a recent interview with Metro.

"When I came here, I told them I am well educated, but still I can't find work."

Tshibangu figured Calgary for a land full of promise, far from the hardship endured in his homeland, the Democratic Republic of Congo.

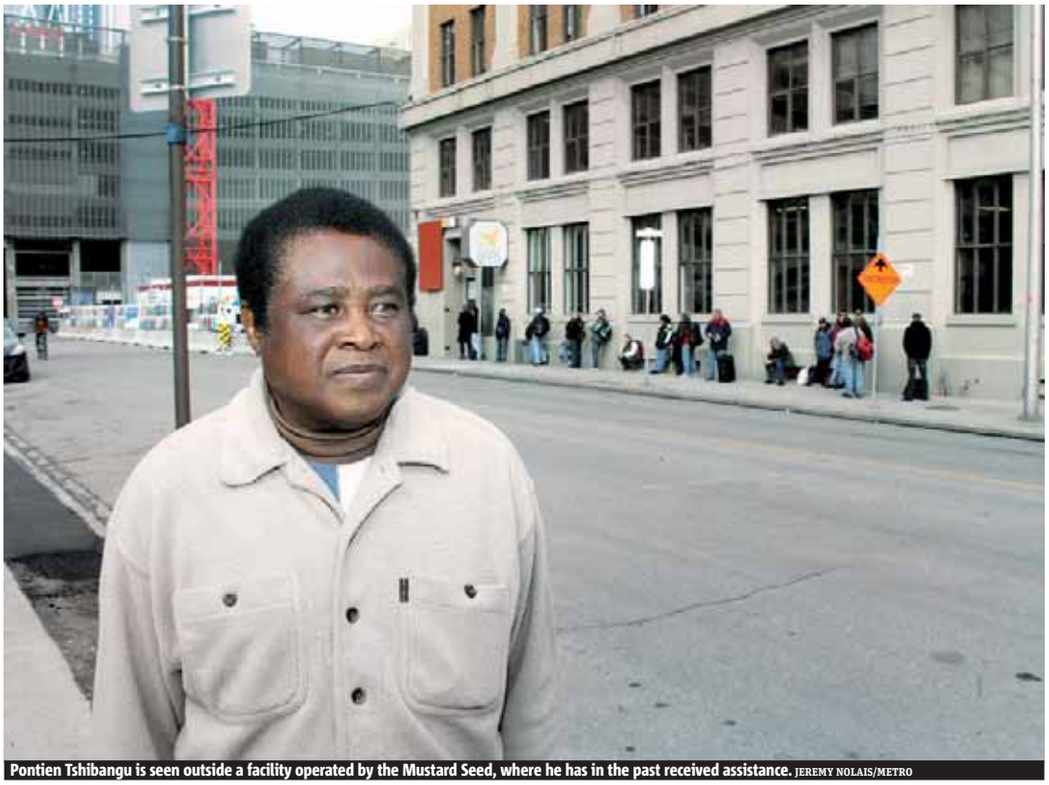
In 1990, Tshibangu was managing more than 1,000 workers at a Kapanga region factory that processed cobalt, a sought-after mineral used in the production of cellphone batteries, when the army of then-president Mobutu Sese-Soko rolled in.

Tshibangu watched in horror as hundreds of his workers were killed. Numerous members of his extended family would also die in the years ahead as conflict rocked the region for the better part of a decade.

"They burned houses, we lost many things," he said, dabbing tears from his eyes.

"I used to spend nights on the corner of my property with a gun. I told myself 'before they kill me, I will kill even two or three of them.'"

Tshibangu, his wife and seven children eventually managed to flee the country and most of them eventually emigrated to Toronto.



Pontien Tshibangu is seen outside a facility operated by the Mustard Seed, where he has in the past received assistance. JEREMY NOLAIS/METRO

But the steadfast entrepreneur had visions of rebuilding his life in his beloved country. In 1997, he travelled back into the Congo and helped establish some smaller factories in a village near the south-central city of Mbuji-Mayi.

As a second civil war broke out, police in the region began threatening the villagers and attempting to draw bribes from Tshibangu.

When he refused, he was summoned to a local police station.

"I was sitting out front when a policeman came and told me what their plans were for me," he said, referring to a planned execution. "I left immediately and never looked back. What else could I do?"

Tshibangu joined his family in Toronto but struggled for years to find steady work.

He came to Calgary last year after hearing of Alberta's thriving oil and gas industry, but continues to bounce between temporary job postings that barely pay enough to keep a roof over his head.

Still, even at 60, he has few thoughts of giving in and hopes to pursue further engineer training at SAIT.

"I have a future here," he said. "I am sure of it."

Heading west

Calgary not always the 'promise land'

Pontien Tshibangu is just one of numerous immigrants receiving employment assistance through the Mustard Seed.

Spokesperson Alyssa Burnham said many are told of Calgary's booming economy, but head west without a firm understanding of the high cost of living and rigid qualifications required for some jobs.

"To a Canadian, it doesn't seem like a big hurdle, but to somebody who's coming here to start over and has little means, it is," she said.

"It isn't always the promise land they think it is."

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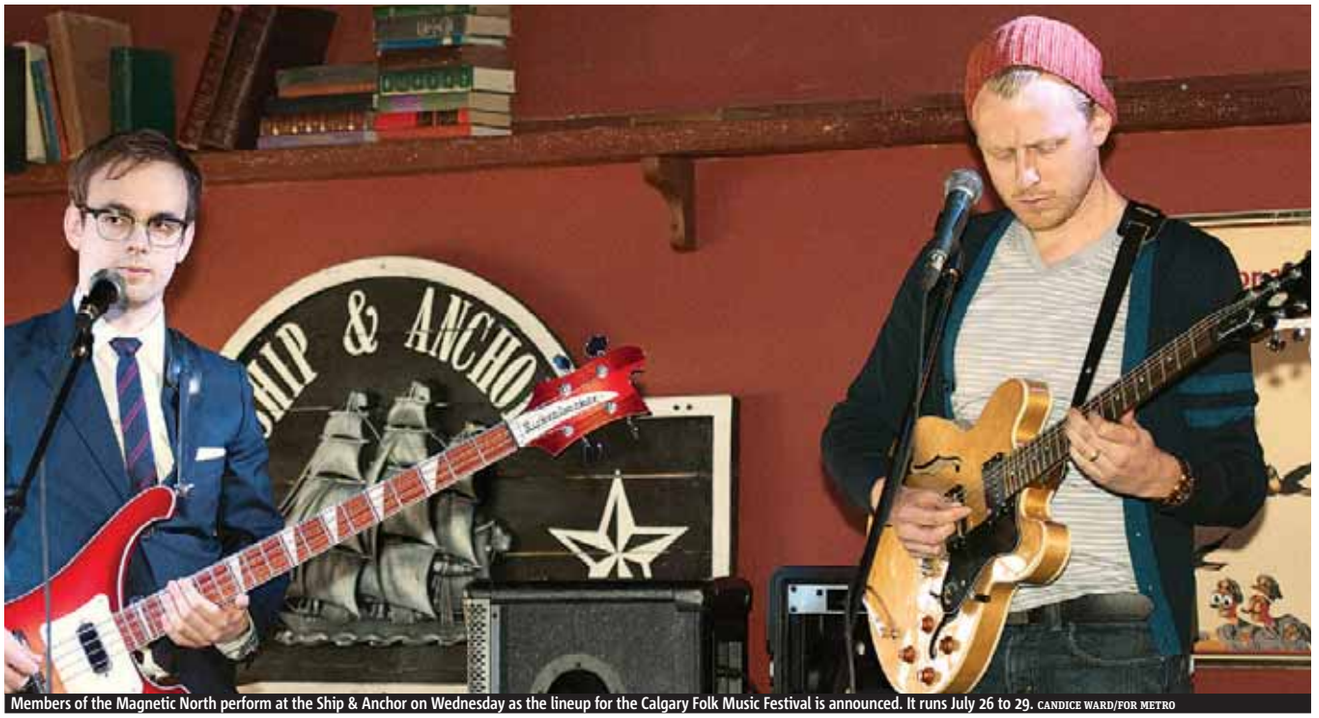

Members of the Magnetic North perform at the Ship & Anchor on Wednesday as the lineup for the Calgary Folk Music Festival is announced. It runs July 26 to 29. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Chris Isaak, Randy Newman are coups for folk festival

But amid the hoopla, disappointment. Headliner Sinead O'Connor cancels for health reasons

Rockabilly crooner Chris Isaak, Oscar-winning songwriter Randy Newman, Canadian chanteuse Serena Ryder and folk-rock act Iron & Wine are among the headliners of this year's Calgary Folk Music Festival.

Dozens of festival fans and supporters flocked to the Ship & Anchor Pub on Wednesday afternoon to get the lowdown on the 2012 lineup.

That includes Justin Townes Earle, Toronto-based indie folk trio The Rural Alberta Advantage, American country star Mary Chapin Carpenter and Montreal's the Barr Brothers.

There are also Polaris Prize-nominated Canadian hip-hop artist Shad, Neutral Milk Hotel vocalist Jeff Mangum, acclaimed Vancouver singer Dan Mangan and soul great Bettye Lavette.

Calgary's poet laureate, Kris Demeanor, performed a spoken-word piece before folk-fest artistic director Kerry Clarke took the stage to announce the main acts.

"Randy Newman is a musician's musician," she told the crowd.

"We've been trying to get him for years."

Earlier this week, headliner Sinead O'Connor cancelled most of her shows this year, including the Calgary folk fest, saying she needed to deal with her bipolar disorder.

The festival — which runs July 26 to 29 at Prince's Island Park — also boasts a Talk Tent featuring local and international comedy acts.

LISA WILTON/FOR METRO

Seniors at risk

Agencies fight elder abuse

Don't close the door on elder abuse — that's the message from the three city agencies that make up the Elder Abuse Response Team.

EART was formed in May 2011 by the Kerby Centre, Calgary Family Services and the Calgary Police Service to raise awareness of and encourage the public to report elder abuse.

"We need your help to find these stories that have gone unheard," said EART co-ordinator Jennifer Gurke.

Since the formation of EART, the team has investigated more than 100 cases, with nine of them resulting in a total of 31 criminal charges.

Before the team's creation, cases of elder abuse in Calgary were investigated by the Calgary Police, but victims lacked support resources.

EART can be reached 24 hours a day by contacting the Elder Abuse Resource Line at 403-705-3250.

CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

Jennifer Gurke speaks about EART on Wednesday. CANDICE WARD/FOR METRO

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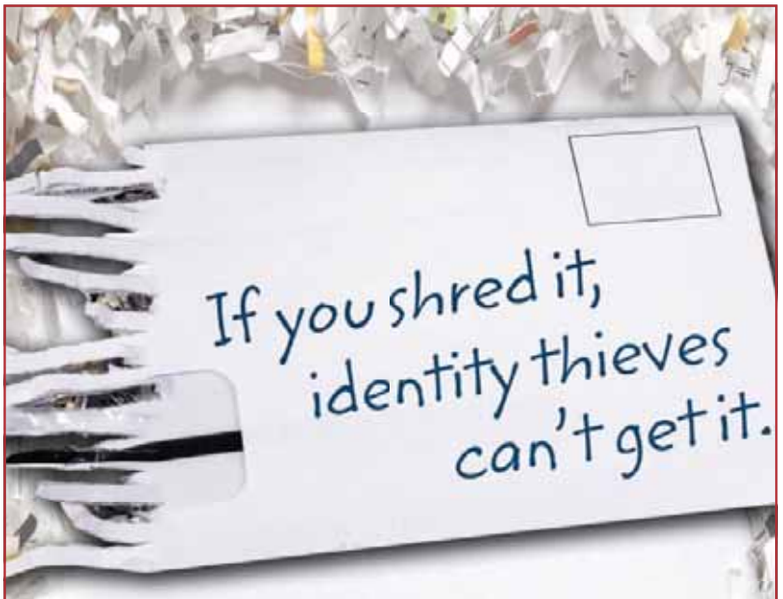

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Korean War veterans from Canada pay their respects Tuesday during a ceremony. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian's ashes sent to Korea for burial

Reunited in death.
Two Canadian brothers fought in Korean War

Back in a country most of them saw for the first time more than half a century ago, about 50 Canadian veterans of the Korean War braved driving rains Wednesday to finally reunite a pair of brothers long since divided by the conflict.

Archibald Hearsey, born in Ignace, Ont., in 1929, had requested in his will that his ashes be returned to Korea and buried next to his older brother Joseph, who died in battle in 1951.

Their remarkable story is one of the Korean War's most powerful tales.

Hearsey died in June of last year. Wednesday's ceremony marked the first time a war veteran's remains were brought back to be buried on South Korean soil.

"They were two small-town boys that were separated by war," said Archibald's daughter, Debbie Kakagamic, who travelled to Korea with her son Solomon to attend the burial ceremony and visit her uncle's grave.

"Now they're together again."

Joseph Hearsey was one of 516 Canadian soldiers who died during the Korean War, which lasted from June 1950 to July 1953.

Canada was one of 16 foreign countries that sent troops, and 26,791 Canadian soldiers fought.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Korean War remembered

"They're gone and I'm still here. I'm lucky."

Veteran George Hamilton. After the burial ceremony, many Canadian vets walked among the gravestones in Busan, where 378 Canadians are buried.

Quebec tuition hikes

Talks between government, students go bust

For three days, there was a faint sign that Quebec's student unrest might find a peaceful resolution. Any such hope was dashed Wednesday as talks broke off between the province and Quebec's student groups.

Their three-day attempt at negotiation was a long shot, with the government refusing to back down on tuition hikes and students demanding just that. Demonstrations have started again in Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Prince George, B.C.
Second victim identified in deadly sawmill blast

A 46-year-old mill worker has been identified as the second victim of the blast that levelled the Lakeland sawmill in Prince George, B.C., on Monday night.

The coroner's service has confirmed that Prince George resident Glenn Francis Roche died in Edmonton, just hours after being transferred to that city for treatment of critical burns.

Forty-three-year-old shift supervisor Alan Little died Tuesday morning in Prince George.

The men were among 11 severely injured when an explosion and fire tore through the mill, owned and operated by Prince George-based Sinclar Group Forest Products.

Three victims have been airlifted for treatment at hospitals in Vancouver and Victoria, while six people remain in hospital in Prince George. Thirteen others were treated and released.

Every sawmill in B.C. has been ordered to conduct a safety review in the wake of the blast, the second deadly explosion at a B.C. sawmill this year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Ottawa looks to appeal ruling on bawdy houses

Prostitution law. Federal government applies to Supreme Court for leave to appeal recent decision

Dominatrix Terri-Jean Bedford holds a whip as she leaves a news conference in Toronto in March after Ontario's top court ruled a ban on brothels is unconstitutional. COLIN PERKEL/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada's three main prostitution-control laws appear destined for scrutiny by the country's highest court after the federal government announced Wednesday it wanted to appeal a decision that effectively legalized brothels.

As a result, the lawyer who successfully challenged the ruling on behalf of sex-trade workers said he had no choice but to try to appeal the ruling that also upheld the ban on street prostitution.

In response to a challenge from three sex-trade workers, Ontario's top court last month struck down the ban on bawdy houses on the basis that it increased the dangers prostitutes face because they are forced to work outside.

The five appellate justices also reworded the law against living on the avails of prostitution to clarify it would only apply in cases of exploitation because it could otherwise apply to people such as a prostitute's bodyguards, accountant or receptionist.

In its application to the Supreme Court for leave to appeal, the federal government said the Ontario Court of Appeal judgment creates a "legislative void."

It also has an impact on police and prosecutions, both inside and outside Ontario, the government brief states.

Sex-trade workers, who hailed the Ontario court ruling as a recognition of their rights and said it would enhance their safety, expressed disappointment at Ottawa's decision. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

World Cup crash. Family blames 'negligence' in course design for death

Stunning negligence in course design and safety features led to the "entirely avoidable" death of a Canadian skicross racer at a World Cup event in Switzerland last month, his family argued Wednesday.

In calling for a thorough, independent inquiry into the death of Nik Zoricic, his family disputed the official position that he was killed in a "freak" accident.

"The finish line was a death trap," family lawyer Tim Danson said.

"It is unacceptable that an elite athlete like Nik Zoricic can make a perfect landing, barely miss the finish line by one metre, and be killed for it."

Citing four reliable sources, Danson alleged that race authorities had been warned beforehand that the course was unsafe. No one did anything, he said.

"These concerns were apparently ignored," Danson said. "As a result, Nik is dead."

The family said it had no plans for legal action provided a proper inquiry is done, saying the aim is to avoid a repeat of the tragedy.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Katrina Zoricic, sister of late skier Nik Zoricic, speaks on Wednesday. MICHELLE SIU/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sporting tragedy

- In skicross, several racers hurtle down a mountain at the same time, making jumps and taking slight curves on the way.
- Zoricic, 29, had raced on the World Cup circuit for more than three years and was competing in his 36th event in Grindelwald.
- He was killed at the finish line of a tight three-way race.

Tori Stafford trial

Court sees video of detention-centre visits

A man whose lawyer has suggested he was nothing more than a horrified witness to the murder of Victoria Stafford at the hands of his girlfriend is seen on video with the woman a month later flexing his muscles for her and drawing her in for a long embrace.

Michael Rafferty visited Terri-Lynne McClintic twice at a detention centre, where she was taken after being arrested days after the killing on an unrelated matter.

McClintic's arrest apparently did not deter Rafferty from trying to keep in near-constant communication with her, records show.

Rafferty visited McClintic there twice and surveillance video played in court Wednesday shows the two laughing and joking around.

Rafferty, 31, has pleaded not guilty to first-degree murder, sexual assault causing bodily harm and kidnapping.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

'This thing's huge.' Fossil stumps scientists

Experts are trying to figure out what a fossil dubbed "Godzillus" used to be.

The 68-kilogram fossil recovered last year in Kentucky is more than two metres long. To the untrained eye, it looks like a bunch of rocks or a concrete blob. Experts are trying to determine whether it was an animal, mineral or a form of plant life from a time when the Cincinnati region was underwater.

Scientists at a Geological Society of America meeting viewed it Tuesday at the Dayton Convention Center in Ohio.

"We are looking for people who might have an idea of what it is," said Ben Dattilo, an assistant professor of geology at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Scientists say the fossil is 450 million years old. University of Cincinnati geologist Carl Brett said it's the largest fossil ever extracted from that era in the Cincinnati region.

"This is the ultimate cold case," said Ron Fine, the Dayton, Ohio, amateur paleontologist who spotted the fossil on a hillside last year and gave it its name.

"Like Godzilla, it's a primordial beast that found its way to the modern era," Fine said. Now 43, Fine has been collecting fossils since age four, and said he saw part of this one on a hillside off a Kentucky highway nearly a year ago.

The "Godzillus" fossil. THE CINCINNATI ENQUIRER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"Most fossils around here are small, the size of your thumbnail or your thumb," he said. "This thing's huge."

He said it could be an early form of seaweed or kelp.

"This one has us stumped," said David Meyer, another UC geology professor.

"Cincinnati was covered by a sea, 100 to 200 feet deep," Meyer said. "Primitive shellfish lived in it. But no fish."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Testing finds mad cow disease at U.S. plant

Women buy beef in Seoul on Wednesday. Two major South Korean retailers have suspended the sale of U.S. beef after a dead dairy cow in California was found to have had mad cow disease. AHN YOUNG-JOON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

California. Authorities say consumers shouldn't be alarmed; disease cannot be transmitted by contact among cows

A nondescript building in the heart of California's dairy country has become the focus of intense scrutiny after mad cow disease was discovered in a dead dairy cow.

Two major South Korean retailers suspended sales of U.S. beef in response.

Tests are performed on only a small portion of dead animals brought to the transfer facility in central California.

The cow had died at one of the region's hundreds of dairies, but hadn't exhibited outward symptoms of the disease: unsteadiness, inco-ordination, a drastic change in behaviour or low milk production, officials said. But when the animal arrived at the facility with a truckload of other dead cows on April 18, its 30-month-plus age and fresh corpse made it eligible for USDA testing.

"We randomly pick a number of samples throughout the year, and this just happened to be one that we randomly sampled," Baker Commodities executive vice-president Dennis Luckey said. "It showed no signs" of disease.

The samples went to the food safety lab at the University of California, Davis on April 18. By April 19, markers indicated the cow could have bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE), a disease that is fatal to cows and can cause a deadly human brain disease in people who eat tainted meat. It was sent to the USDA lab in Iowa for further testing.

Agriculture officials announced the findings Tuesday: the animal had atypical BSE.

That means it didn't get the disease from eating infected cattle feed, said John Clifford, the Agriculture Department's chief veterinary officer.

It was "just a random mutation that can happen every once in a great while in an animal," said Bruce Akey, director of the New York State Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory.

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Prostitution scandal. Homeland Security secretary questioned

Conflicting portraits of the Secret Service took stage Wednesday in Congress, as senators challenged Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to reconcile the image of agents who protect the lives of America's president with the dozen officers and supervisors implicated in a humiliating prostitution scandal.

Napolitano told the Senate Judiciary Committee that the incident in Colombia involving as many as 20 women appeared to be an isolated one. She said the agency's office of professional responsibility had not received any complaints in the past two-and-a-half years. She said investigators are reviewing earlier time periods as well.

"This behaviour was not part of the Secret Service way of doing business," Napolitano testified. "We are going to make sure that standards and training, if they need to be tightened up they are tightened."

The Colombia scandal has been widely denounced in Washington, but it's a delicate political matter in an election year with the presidency and congressional majorities at stake.

The White House said Wednesday that the conduct of the employees punished in the ongoing scandal was "inappropriate" and unacceptable for people representing the United States abroad.

Janet Napolitano testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington.

SUSAN WALSH/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Show of hands for 'show me your papers'

A supporter of Arizona's "show me your papers" immigration law demonstrates in front of the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington Wednesday. Supreme Court justices strongly suggested that they are ready to allow Arizona to enforce part of a controversial state law that requires police officers to check the immigration status of people they think are in the country illegally.

CHARLES DHARAPAK/THE ASSOCIATED PRES

WikiLeaks

Charges stick for U.S. army private

A military judge refused on Wednesday to throw out the charges against a U.S. army private accused of providing thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks in the biggest leak of government secrets in the country's history.

Army Col. Denise Lind denied the defence motion to dismiss all 22 charges during a pretrial hearing in the court-martial of Ptw. 1st Class Bradley Manning.

Manning is accused of sending hundreds of thousands of sensitive documents to WikiLeaks, the anti-secrecy website run by Julian Assange.

The U.S. government says the publication of that material online aided al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula.

The defence has filed several motions seeking dismissal of individual charges, including the most serious, aiding the enemy. That offence carries a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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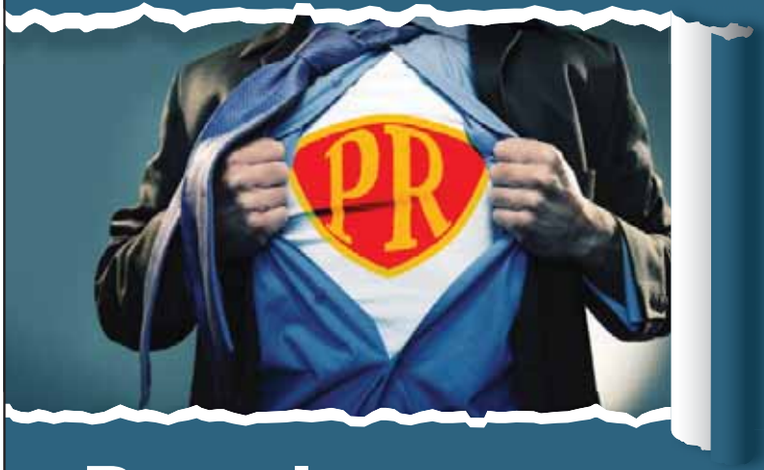

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Free speech?

Girls fight expulsion over Facebook

Three eighth-graders from Indiana who say they were expelled after joking on Facebook about which of their classmates they would like to kill asked a federal judge Wednesday to order the district to allow them to return to school.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed a lawsuit on behalf of the three 14-year-old girls in federal court in Hammond, claiming that Griffith Public School violated the students' free-speech rights.

The girls were suspended and later expelled in January for the remainder of the school year after a classmate's mother alerted officials at the school to the girls' Facebook posts, the lawsuit says.

The suit says school officials told the girls they had violated school policy against bullying, harassment and intimidation.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Zoo tragedy

Elephant turns on zookeeper in N.Z.

An African elephant has killed a zookeeper caring for her at the New Zealand zoo where the animal was retired after performing in circuses for decades.

Police officers were called to the Franklin Zoo near Auckland on Wednesday afternoon after an incident between the elephant and the keeper, a New Zealand police statement said. It said more information would not be released until the woman's family had been informed.

Wednesday was a public holiday in New Zealand, but the zoo was open, as were many tourist attractions.

Jumbo, also known as Mila, is the sole elephant at the Franklin Zoo, according to its website. The 39-year-old elephant arrived four years ago after performing in circuses for three decades. The zoo built a new enclosure for her in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Confessed killer says diagnosis is a smear

Trial. Breivik claims psychiatric report that found him to be insane is based on 'evil fabrications'

Mass killer Anders Behring Breivik slammed a psychiatric report that declared him insane, insisting Wednesday it was based on "evil fabrications" meant to portray him as irrational and unintelligent.

"It is not me who is described in that report," the right-wing extremist, who has admitted to killing 77 people in a July 22 bomb-and-shooting rampage, said in court.

A second psychiatric examination found that Breivik was sane. The five-judge panel trying Breivik on terror charges for the attacks will consider both reports.

Breivik's mental state is the key issue that remains unresolved in the trial, since he has admitted to a bombing in Oslo's government district that killed eight people and a subsequent shooting massacre at a Labor Party youth camp that left 69 people dead, most of them teenagers. He claims the attacks were "necessary" and that the victims had betrayed Norway by embracing immigration.

Sounding irritated, the 33-year-old Norwegian accused the two psychiatrists who declared him psychotic of deciding on the diagnosis prematurely, saying their judgment was clouded by their emotional response to the attacks.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A matter of sanity

If found guilty and sane, Breivik would face 21 years in prison, though he can be held longer if deemed a danger to society.

- If declared insane, he would be committed to compulsory psychiatric care.
- "To a political activist, the worst thing that can happen is to end up in a mental hospital," Breivik said. "That would delegitimize everything you stand for."

Madeleine McCann. U.K. police say missing girl may still be alive

British police on Wednesday asked Portugal to reopen the case of Madeleine McCann, saying that as the fifth anniversary of her disappearance approaches there is a possibility she is still alive.

Police also released a new image of what McCann would likely look like today, expressing hope that she would be found even years after the then-three-year-old vanished on May 3 while on a trip to Portugal with her family.

The case sparked global interest because of heartbreaking images of the girl beamed around the world and, in part, because her parents were briefly considered suspects before they were cleared.

Detective Chief Inspector Andy Redwood said he is leading a team of 37 police officers reviewing some 40,000 pieces of evidence gathered so far.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Three-year-old Madeleine McCann and a computer-generated image of her at nine years old. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/LONDON METROPOLITAN POLICE

Gatecrasher plans to run for state governor

Loftier goals. Tareq Salahi crashed a 2009 White House dinner but now says he plans to be on the GOP ticket in Virginia's gubernatorial election

White House gatecrasher Tareq Salahi says he plans to run for governor of Virginia next year.

Salahi completed a declaration of candidacy. But that is meaningless until Jan. 1.

A State Board of Elections official says the agency that oversees Virginia elections can't accept the declaration until the year in which the election is scheduled.

Salahi's plan to run as a Republican comes just days after another GOP candidate for governor, Attorney General Ken Cuccinelli, filed a lawsuit against Salahi and his winery. It claims they cheated customers who bought winery tours. Salahi gained fleeting fame with his now-estranged wife as uninvited guests to a 2009 White House state dinner.

Their brazen exploit sparked concern about the Secret Service's effectiveness.

The notoriety also landed Michaele a role in the reality television series Real Housewives of D.C., which was cancelled after one season.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

President Barack Obama greets Michaele and Tareq Salahi at a state dinner at the White House in Washington on Nov. 24, 2009. The Salahis deny they were crashing the event. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Royal fever. U.S. school welcomes Prince Edward

Prince Edward, in New York City this week. MICHAEL LOCCISANO/GETTY IMAGES

When the future King Edward VII visited Girard College in 1860, the boarding school for underprivileged students served about 860 white boys in a bucolic setting on the edge of bustling Philadelphia.

That is not the institution that the British monarch's great-great-grandson will see on Thursday.

Now educating a much smaller and racially diverse student population of boys and girls, Girard is a cloistered slice of serenity amid a gritty neighbourhood in the heart of the city.

Yet it remains dedicated to its mission of educating low-income students even as the school itself struggles financially. It's also facing a change in leadership as its dynamic young president, Autumn Adkins Graves, steps down at the end of June.

Pomp and ceremony

"It's exciting.... We've ordered a lot of British flags."

Autumn Adkins Graves, president of Girard College

But first, Graves will welcome Prince Edward, who will plant a tree to honour the Diamond Jubilee of his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, now in her 60th year on the throne. Edward's great-great-grandfather planted two trees at the school 152 years ago.

The prince will also visit with students from Girard and several other local schools who participate in a youth-development program started by his father, the Duke of Edinburgh.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ministry of mix-ups

Dinner invite leads to Swedish comedy of errors

Sweden's environment minister thought she'd asked the country's former agriculture minister to attend a glam dinner.

But the invitation went to the "wrong" Margareta Winberg — an ordinary Swede who jumped at the chance to mingle, even participating in the group photo.

Winberg, a 67-year old retiree from Sundbyberg, told the Swedish daily Dagens Nyheter that although she doesn't know much about the environment, she didn't hesitate in taking up Lena Ek on the offer last week.

She told the paper she wore black trousers and a blouse and met interesting people "like that guy Blix" — a reference to former chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix.

Ek's spokesperson said the minister found the situation "extremely funny."

METRO

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ULTRA Downy
See Amy upgrade more things at youtube.com/downy
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Newt's topsy-turvy campaign all but done

White House wannabe. Dream unravels for outspoken GOP candidate Gingrich as Romney sweeps five state primaries

The end of the road is near for Republican presidential wannabe Newt Gingrich, his entertaining campaign all but kaput in the wake of another humiliating trouncing in a state where he spent weeks wooing primary voters.

Gingrich is reportedly set to announce he's dropping out of the race in a week, ending a bid for president remarkable for its outward displays of arrogance, delusion and bitterness.

He all but conceded the nomination to Mitt Romney in an appearance in North Carolina on Wednesday morning, just hours after the front-runner swept five state primaries.

Gingrich placed dead last in all but one of those contests, Delaware, finishing behind libertarian congressman Ron Paul, who's remaining in the race.

Gingrich, 68, said an announcement on the future of his campaign was forthcoming. Several news outlets report the former speaker of the House of Representatives plans to formally announce he's dropping out on Tuesday after a farewell tour of sorts through North Carolina.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Announcement pending

"It's pretty clear Gov. Romney is going to be the nominee."

Newt Gingrich. Republican presidential candidate speaks to his supporters in Cramerton, N.C.

Newt Gingrich is reportedly set to announce he's dropping out of the GOP presidential race within the next week. JOHN W. ADKISSON|GETTY IMAGES

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Social media love triangle. Facebook posts lead to all-out five-women street brawl

A mob of women got into a bloody street fight in California, reportedly as a result of Facebook posts.

Recently, a wife discovered her husband was cheating on her with another woman, who was posting comments on Facebook about their romance. The wife decided to do something about the torrid affair.

"It was about infidelities, some types of postings about those things. It obviously got her upset enough to want to fight the woman," said Sacramento Police Officer Michele Gigante. "It turned into a bit of a melee."

Word spread fast about a pre-planned brawl between the ladies. Some 30 women arrived at an intersection in Del Paso Heights near Sacramento at about 4 p.m. on Sunday. Witnesses say they began yelling, pushing and swinging — some with fists, others with baseball bats. Rocks, bottles and candles were also used as weapons.

Police said one woman grabbed a votive candle from a nearby roadside memorial nearby, smashing it to use as a sharp weapon.

"Two people really sustained major injuries," Sacramento Police Sgt. Andrew Pettit told CBS Sacramento news. "Those two people were reportedly hit with bats and they went to the hospital requiring stitches."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A Google street view of the intersection in Sacramento, Calif., where some 30 women reportedly got into a street fight because of Facebook posts.

Freedom of speech?

Marine discharged for Obama critique

A sergeant will be discharged for criticizing President Barack Obama on Facebook in a case that called into question the Pentagon's policies about social media and its limits on the speech of active duty military personnel, the Marine Corps said Wednesday.

Sgt. Gary Stein will get an other-than-honourable discharge and lose most of his benefits for violating the policies, the Corps said.

The San Diego-area Marine he was disappointed by the decision. He has argued that he was exercising his free-speech rights. "I love the Marine Corps, I love my job. I wish it wouldn't have gone this way. I'm having a hard time seeing how 15 words on Facebook could have ruined my nine-year career," he told the Associated Press.

Gary Kreep, an attorney for Stein, said he would pursue administrative appeals within the Marine Corps but anticipates the effort will be denied. He said he planned to file an amended complaint in federal court.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Wired stuff: The Internet of inanimates

Technology trend. Non-human things creating and exchanging data constitute growing network

Smart vehicles, home security systems and web-connected appliances are becoming part of what's known as the "Internet of Things," a growing network of objects creating and exchanging data without people directly involved.

Things are getting a "voice," said Ric Asselstine, CEO of Terepac Corp., which makes tiny electronics to put into objects to make them "smart" and compatible with the Internet of Things.

"At the end of the day, what we're creating is information," Asselstine said via phone from Terepac's headquarters in Waterloo, Ont.

Creating information

"The potential is literally boundless."
Ric Asselstine, CEO of Terepac Corp.

There is the potential for "trillions" of devices to be connected to the Internet of Things, he said. Consumer products, medical devices and agricultural methods, such as managing crop moisture with sensors, can be a part of the Internet of Things.

Data about locations and conditions can be transmitted through these objects, Asselstine said. Terepac can embed ultra-thin electronics in numerous objects, such as a hat with a logo, or a coaster. Asselstine said his company also has a software application to allow users to interact with the object either with a smartphone or just by tapping the object.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Josh Long installs a new alarm system in a new home in Morgan Hill, Calif., in 2009. Web-connected home security systems are becoming part of what's known as the Internet of Things. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Transit trouble. Daimler AG to close Ontario bus plant in restructuring

Daimler AG is closing a bus plant in Mississauga, Ont., as part of a plan to shut down its North American transit-bus business due to weak demand. The plant currently employs 390 people.

The German company said Wednesday it will immediately stop taking orders for its Orion buses and look to close the Toronto-area plant once it completes its current orders over the next year.

A plant in Oriskany, N.Y., will continue operations as a parts and field-service location. Daimler said the decision follows expectations that the transit-bus business will remain depressed for the next several years.

"The local market is in a continued slump, and growth opportunities are not available from selling the product overseas," said Hartmut Schick, head of Daimler Buses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wind farm

Trump warns Scotland against blocking view

Donald Trump on Wednesday swept into Scotland's parliament to demand the country end plans for an offshore wind farm he fears will spoil the view at his exclusive new $1.2-billion US golf resort.

In a typically blunt display, the New York property tycoon told an inquiry into renewable energy to stop the wind-power efforts in the country's north

"Scotland, if you pursue this policy of these monstrous turbines, Scotland will go broke," he said.

Members of the committee are looking at how achievable the Scottish government's green targets for 2020 are. The plans for 11 200-foot (60-meter) tall wind turbines are part of the government's goal of positioning itself as a leader in renewable energy.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Fast food

Burger King pledges cage-free pork, eggs

Burger King on Wednesday became the first major U.S. fast-food chain to pledge that all its eggs and pork will come from cage-free chickens and pigs by 2017.

The move by the world's second-biggest burger chain helps it satisfy growing demand among customers for humanely produced fare and adds fuel to an industry-wide shift to consider animal welfare.

Conventionally raised eggs come from hens confined in "battery cages," which give them roughly the same space as a sheet of standard notebook paper. Most pork comes from sows confined during their four-month pregnancies in narrow crates.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Market Minute

DOLLAR 101.68¢ (+0.47¢)

Natural gas: $2.07 (+9.5¢)
Dow Jones: 13,090.72 (+89.16)

TSX 12,111.06 (+130.96)

OIL $104.12 US (+57¢)

GOLD $1,642.30 US (-$1.50)

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Like their counterparts in the comic-book world, Real-life Superheroes need villains. Real-Life Super Villains were created four years ago to help ensure superheroes stay moral. 'Villains' don't have death lasers or plans to rule the world. They take upon themselves the duty of demanding accountability of those who would call themselves 'super'

Villains gladly put hose to heroes

Kaptain Blackheart NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

NADIA FEZZANI AND THE GOLDEN DON
For Metro Canada

The interaction the Real-Life Super Villains have with the Real-Life Superheroes is mainly online.

Although it is known to happen, very rarely do RLSVs actually meet RLSHs in person.

For better or worse, the Internet is the medium. Approval, information-sharing, networking, collaboration and conflicts are played out on Facebook, YouTube and various message boards and forums.

Much like heroes, each villain operates differently.

Some Real-Life Super Villains criticize openly, sometimes cruelly, in posts and comments to demand response from heroes whose behaviour they find lacking.

Some mock by producing media designed to spoof and draw attention to the hero's shortcomings.

Targeting the 'capes'

"The reason I target certain 'capes,' as we call them, is that I don't believe that they are acting very heroic. If they are bigots or otherwise set a bad example for the community and/or the children who they are supposed to be protecting, it puts them right in my crosshairs. Heroes have no room for hate speech or supporting things such as crimes against women.

My goals have somewhat changed. I do not attack everyone who calls themselves a superhero ... just the ones who deserve it. There are those out there who I believe are genuine in what they are trying to do and truly wish to help people. I generally leave those people alone — and have actually become friends with some of them.

I will be honest: The costume makes things a lot more fun and theatrical for both sides. I mean, who wants to fight a 'hero' or 'villain' in a T-shirt and blue jeans? Come on — they get to wear costumes, then so do we!" Super villain Zyklon B

Villainy in disguise

The Golden Don
NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Keepers of the golden rule or cyber-bullies?

In many ways, Real Life Superheroes and Real Life Super Villains are more similar than they would want to admit. Many in both camps love comic books, and contribute to causes they believe in.

However, there are fundamental differences.

The greatest: RLSH go out and interact with their community in one way or another.

Villains, on the other hand, operate on the Internet.

Real Life Superheroes often criticize their nemeses by saying they waste their time in their "mothers' basements" nay-saying the RLSH world rather than making a real difference.

Many RLSH feel that the RLSV are simply costumed cyber-bullies.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Phoenix Jones: Masked

It was just like a scene from a movie the day Real Life Superhero Phoenix Jones' assault charges were dropped. As more than a dozen journalists and photographers crowded around him, the 23-year-old Seattleite took off his black and gold mask for the first time in public. For two years, he had been known for fighting crime. That day he told the world, 'I'm Phoenix Jones. I'm also Ben Fodor. I also protect the city, I also am a father, I also am a brother. I'm just like everyone else.'

Phoenix Jones NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Some call them Real Life Superheroes. Others refer to them as crime fighters or crime-prevention patrollers. Phoenix Jones and his team, the "Rain City Superhero Movement," call themselves a crime-prevention brigade.

For the past two years, they have been arresting carjackers, attackers and people threatening others with guns in the troubled areas of Seattle.

Equipped with bullet-proof vests, stab plating, pepper spray, Tasers and a first-aid kit, members of the 10-person team risk their lives to protect the lives of others. Even with protective equipment, the job is dangerous: Jones has been shot once and stabbed twice.

Jones is a six-foot-tall, 185-pound mixed-martial-arts champion who calls on lessons learned in his tough childhood to build his strong character.

Born to criminal parents who stole and sold narcotics, Jones — or Ben — was the middle child in a family of five. He was the only one who was sent to live in an orphanage until the age of five. "I guess it

hero exposed

was just luck of the draw. Just flip a coin," he recalls.

During that period of time, his mother got busted for selling drugs out of her baby carriage. When he was five, the system returned Jones to live with his father and siblings.

Two years later, life took a dramatic turn. While Jones was waiting in the car for his father to come back from running errands, he heard gunshots. His father had attempted to rob a convenience store and was killed.

Jones was placed in an orphanage but he wasn't like the others. Even though his mother was in prison, he had a parent.

Jones was adopted at nine years old, but had to spend half the time with his new family and half the time at the orphanage. At 11 he moved to his new home permanently and settled into a new school, where Jones starting training in martial arts. By 14, he was already a black belt.

After high school, he trained to work with autistic children, his passion for five years.

In October 2011, Jones was charged with assault when he broke up a fight using pepper spray. His costume was taken and his identity was revealed as public record. Even though the charges were dropped, the authorities kept his uniform for weeks.

Jones chose to embrace his circumstances, even though he lost his job and licence to work with the autistic because of the assault accusations. He faced the public bravely. Now, with a little less mystery, he continues to patrol, protect and inspire the citizens of Seattle.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO CANADA

Meet the Super Villains

Zyklon B

A prominent member of R.O.A.C.H., a villain group, Zyklon B took on a controversial name to match his approach to his criticism of heroes as a whole. He uses inflammatory comments that are designed to straddle the line of propriety, especially with new or unproven RLSH. "The bad guys are really the good guys. And the heroes are the villains," says Zyklon B.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

The Roaming EYE of DOOM

A comedic group of what some call "Metavillains," these fiction-based villains are led by Octavius Fong, an evil puppet. The EYE has included those like Kaptain Blackheart, the Baroness, Agent Orange and others. The goal is to hold a "funhouse mirror" to the RLSH community by producing humorous videos, web-cast radio programming and online personas. The Baroness has also exposed false RLSH whose goal was to send explicit messages to females in the online community. They try to maintain a high standard of ethics, if only to keep the higher ground.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Lord Malignance

Perhaps the most disciplined practitioner of "Metavillainy," he speaks of himself in third person as "One." His portrayal of this persona has led to the creation of a textured fictional existence that includes a headquarters he has built in his home. His goal is to inspire critical thinking through absurdity and imagination. "Superheroes are trapped in a group self-delusion of their own making. Whenever the truth appears, they run from it like kryptonite," says Lord Malignance.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

Caligula Caesar

Caligula Caesar selected his name to embody the greed and thirst for power that his historical namesake so villainously displayed. Based out of Brooklyn, he calls his neighbourhood the New R.O.M.E. (Reign Over My Enemies). He got into villainy eights months ago, when he heard of local superheroes making what he considered to be preposterous claims about contributing to decreasing crime in his part of town. Today, he manages a forum where heroes and villains can debate, settle their differences and air their grievances without it being visible to fans and supporters.

NADIA FEZZANI/FOR METRO

More at metronews.ca

- **Exclusive video interview: Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign with Pure Evil.** Until recently, Real Life Superheroes Phoenix Jones and Purple Reign have refused to communicate with Real Life Super Villains. Exclusively, they have accepted the invitation for an interview from the Golden Don and Kaptain Blackheart, the only "Metavillains" to be cepted by Jones.

Code of ethics

"A code of ethics is necessary if the community is to work toward a common goal. Because there are a growing number of superheroes, it's necessary that we all understand and trust one another. It's also important for the general public to know what we stand for, so that they, in turn, feel comfortable working with us. In my everyday life I'm a security professional, so I bring that background into the RLSH community. As the Silver Sentinel, I'm a mentor and friend to heroes around the world, offering advice and directing new people to training resources in their local communities." Superhero Silver Sentinel

Watchdog. Austerity to cost 100,000 jobs: Report

Government spending restraint and cuts will lead to balanced budgets but also slower economic growth and 100,000 lost jobs, Canada's budget watchdog said Wednesday.

Parliamentary Budget Officer Kevin Page's latest economic and fiscal report is surprising in that it agrees with the Harper government that the budget will be balanced in 2015-16 — maybe even a year earlier. But it says fiscal soundness carries a heavy price, with Ottawa taking $52 billion out of the economy and the provinces adding another $9 billion in drag.

Fiscal drag

"The real question is, how strong is the private sector going to be?" Craig Alexander, TD Bank

"The PBO expects that restraint and reductions in government spending on programs in Canada will act as a drag on economic growth and job creation, pushing the economy further away from its potential (gross domestic product) and delaying the economic recovery," the report states.

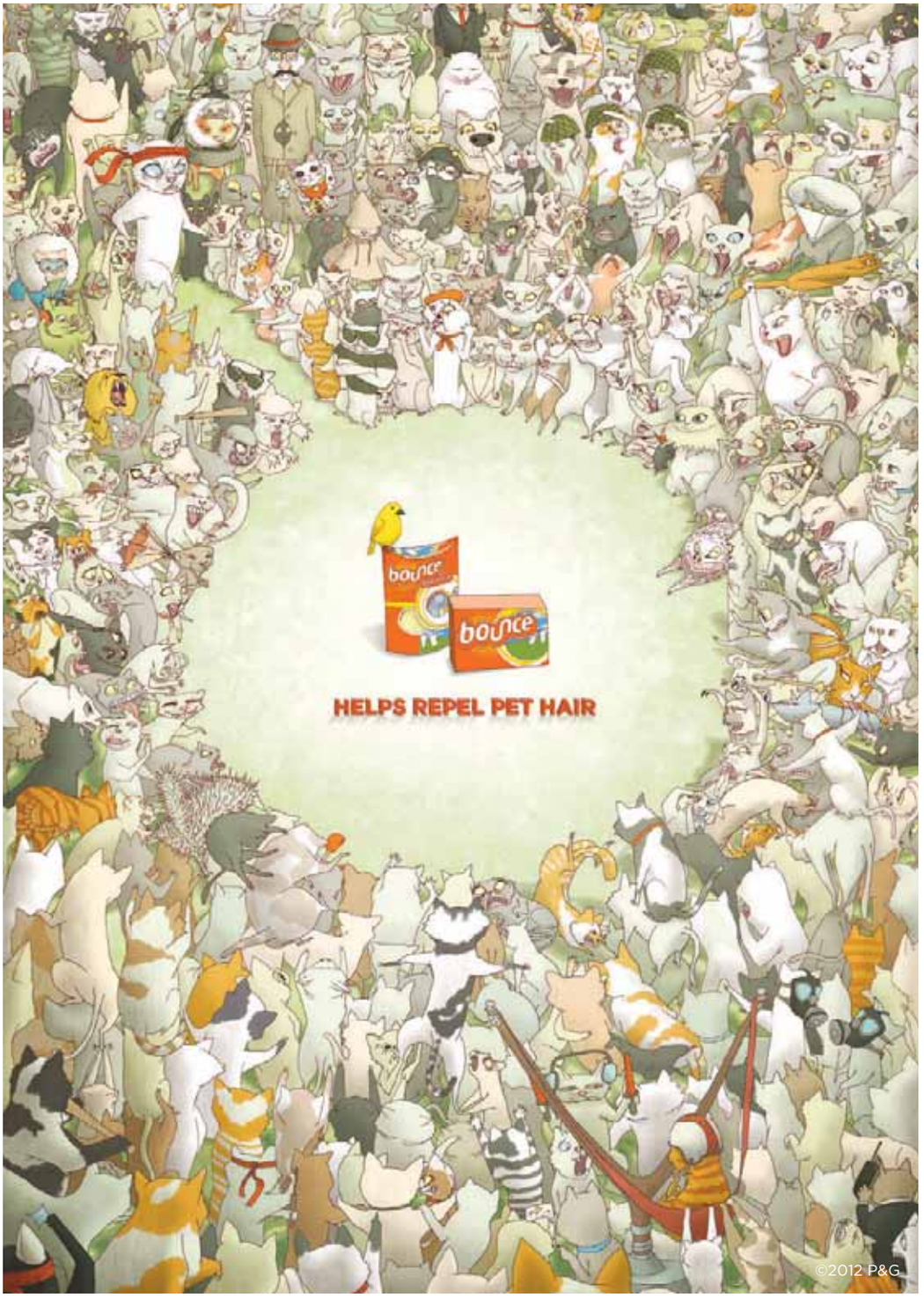
The report was posted on the PBO website Wednesday ahead of Page's testimony before the Commons finance committee on Thursday.

The report says it incorporates Finance Department multipliers for jobs and growth for its projections, and is taking the government at its word that it will limit spending increases while chopping 19,200 public servants.

Ottawa's ongoing planned restraint and 6.9 per cent cut in departmental spending will reduce its share of the economy from 7.3 per cent in 2010-11 to 5.5 per cent in 2016-17.

That will have a direct impact on the economy, Page's report stresses.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Laid-off Aveos employees protest outside the annual meeting of ACE Aviation, ex-parent company of Air Canada, at the Museum of Fine Arts in Montreal on Wednesday. RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Workers accuse ACE Aviation of betrayal

Lost jobs. Air Canada's former parent company splitting spoils and abandoning workers: Protesters

Vented anger

"They are responsible for the nightmare we are living right now."

Maxime Dolci, Aveos employee and local union vice-president

Air Canada's former parent company was accused Wednesday of betraying workers by distributing millions of dollars among its shareholders as it winds down operations.

Hundreds of protesters blocked a downtown Montreal street where shareholders at ACE Aviation's annual meeting approved the plan to dissolve the holding company after less than 10 years of operation.

"They are going to distribute $350 million that belongs to us," Jean Poirier, vice-president of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, said on the steps of the Montreal Museum of Fine Arts.

While Air Canada struggles under the weight of more than $4.3 billion of debt and hefty pension obligations, ACE shareholders will split the spoils of selling its various divisions.

ACE barred reporters from its annual meeting. In a statement, it confirmed that shareholders approved the wind up of the company and plans to distribute between $250 million and $300 million in the coming weeks.

"The final distribution to shareholders will not occur earlier than mid-year 2013 in order to allow that any remaining contingent liabilities be settled or otherwise provided for," it said in the statement.

The protesters accused the Harper Conservatives of being in a conspiracy with Air Canada by not enforcing a law critics say requires heavy maintenance work to be done in Canada.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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ORANGE JUICE LEAVES BAD TASTE IN OUR MOUTHS

HE SAYS...
John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/hesays

Anyone else find it weird that the levels of outrage over a $16 orange juice and $25-billion fighter jets are roughly the same?

I understand, though.

It's difficult to wrap one's head around the Conservatives' $10-billion discrepancy between stated and actual fighter-jet costs because the average Joe rarely finds $10 billion in the couch cushions. It's such a big boondoggle there's no easy way to comprehend it.

On the other hand, we've all had $16 and we've all had orange juice.

So when we learn that Conservative MP Bev Oda had a taxpayer-funded $16 glass of juice at a super-posh London hotel — *because the first five-star hotel wasn't good enough for her* — we "get it" and go from zero to face-palm in 2.9 seconds.

People have been accusing Oda of having champagne tastes, but at least if the juice had been mixed with champagne, we'd have understood.

Dishonesty to the tune of $10-billion is bad, sure, but $16 orange juice, well, that offends our sensibilities.

This would explain why, when reimbursing the taxpayers for part of her costs, Oda left a wholly unnecessary $1,000-plus limousine on the taxpayers' bill, but made sure the orange juice was taken care of. She wouldn't want to look bad.

The only good news was that the relative clarity of Oda's OJ scandal makes the Conservatives' mishandling of the F-35 file that much clearer.

In both cases, the Conservatives criticized the opposition for doing its job. Oda called her questioners "extremist," which makes one hope she never becomes foreign minister.

In both cases, they said (essentially), "There is no scandal here, because once we got caught, we fixed it," which explains why they're the nation's leading experts on unreported crime.

And in both cases, they claimed to have followed all existing procedures. In the case of the F-35s, Defence Minister Peter MacKay said the $10 billion came down to "accounting differences," which is like blaming a car accident on "differences in direction."

The only real difference between the two scandals is that the Conservatives apologized for the orange juice.

But if you're still finding it hard to grasp the F-35 screw-up, then maybe this last comparison will help: $25 billion could buy Oda 1,562,500,000 glasses of Tropicana.

Supplemental discipline

I'm Brendan Shanahan, Canada's director of taxpayer safety.

- In February 2011, in London, England, an incident occurred during a conference on the immunization of children in poor countries. In the opening minutes, International Co-operation Minister Bev Oda delivered an unnecessary cheque for $665 to stay at a posh hotel. This is overcharging.
- As the documents show, Oda had the five-star Grange St. Paul's lined up for what should have been a clean, honest cheque. However, she launched herself over two kilometres into another all-star. This is a violation of the overcharging rule, which states: "A minor or major scandal shall be imposed on an MP who decides a five-star hotel is for cheapskates."
- It should be noted that the Conservatives did not change their fiscally conservative position either during or immediately prior to the cheque.
- While we accept Oda's assertion that she did not intend to hurt her electoral chances, the moment she left the first hotel, she became responsible for causing numerous Canadians' heads to explode.
- Canada's Department of Taxpayer Safety has decided to suspend Bev Oda, but I have no real power, so I'm not going to do anything. Just like my old job.

The Ants go marching in

FENG LI/GETTY IMAGES

Beijing

Auto show links new technology

Dancers perform beside the Chery @Ant concept vehicle during the 2012 Beijing International Automotive Exhibition at China International Exhibition Center on Wednesday in Beijing. More than 2,000 automotive enterprises from 14 countries and regions are participating in the massive auto show from April 23 to May 2. GETTY

Going green

China's dream of electric cars elusive

China's leaders are finding it's a lot tougher to create a world-beating electric-car industry than they hoped.

In 2009, they pledged billions of dollars for research and called for annual sales of 500,000 cars by 2015.

Today, Beijing is scaling back its ambitions, chastened by technological hurdles.

The government has hedged its bets by broadening the industry's official goals to include cleaner gasoline engines. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Quoted

"It's expensive in China at the moment because of import duties, and we don't qualify for incentives.... But we still think it's important that we demonstrate its capabilities here in China."

Kevin Wale,
president of GM China

Electric capabilities

300 km

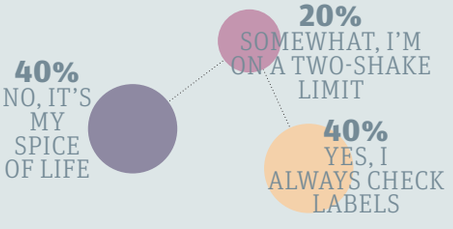
China's most advanced developer, BYD Co. (in which American investor Warren Buffett's Berkshire Hathaway Corp. owns a 10 per cent stake), says its electric e6 sedan can travel 300 kilometres on a charge — a range similar to that of Western models.

BYD has sold 300 taxis and 200 electric buses used in the southern city of Shenzhen, a centre for business and technology near Hong Kong, according to Henry Li, general manager of its export division. BYD has invested heavily in research and has thousands of engineers working on battery and motor technology.

Metropolitan Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Are you concerned about your salt intake?



Twitter

@JDradioDJ:
Thick fog in Calgary this morning. It looks like a deleted scene from Lord of the Rings. #YYC #weather

@RichardNairn:
I think the fog leaked out of my brain... Sorry #yyc

@itzLNerds:
It smells like Cows outside. Cowtown foo shure #yyc #mistyweather

@Stop_Drop_Lol:
$100,000,000 to whoever delivers a swift punch to the larynx of the goose outside that is tormenting me. #yyc

@sparklexgirl:
I've grown accustomed to the nice weather. Can I just stay in bed until it comes back? #yyc

@comradejas:
It is amazing how hanging baskets of flowers on downtown train stations spruce it up. Looked quite nice! #YYC

metro

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Nerds, take note: Comics event promises big names

Local artist Laurie B will be showcasing her work at the Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo this weekend at booth 822. CANDICE WARD/METRO

Comic expo. Geek heroes like comics creator Stan Lee and Batman actor Adam West will be on hand

BACKSTAGE PASS
Lisa Wilton
calgary@metronews.ca

Hear that?

It's the sound of thousands of comic book enthusiasts, horror movie buffs and sci-fi fans unapologetically nerding out over this weekend's Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo.

They are understandably excited given this year's impressive lineup, which includes legendary comic creator Stan Lee, Batman actor Adam West, Nightmare On Elm Street's Robert Englund and the principal cast of Star Trek: The Next Generation.

But the big-name headliners make up only a small part of the Expo.

There are hundreds of lesser-known but equally hard-working artists, animators and game designers who will be on hand to promote their talents.

Local animator Laurie Breitkreuz (known as Laurie B) is one of them.

The 37-year-old artist has been working the Comic-Con circuit for the past decade and is best known for her pinup-style drawings of comic and movie heroines.

"I do like drawing the female form, but I like putting a cartoon spin on it," she says.

"I had a sketchbook littered with these playful poses and a friend of mine had a look at it and said if I put a Wonder Woman costume on it, it would do well at the comic conventions. I was already working the convention circuit with other art on the table, but I was struggling to get by as an artist. This is very lucrative. A lot of people like this type of art."

Breitkreuz — who is married to Calgary Expo founder Kandrix Foong — started drawing at an early age. Her mother gave her a pen and paper during church services as a way to keep her calm and quiet for an hour. By the age of 12, she knew she wanted to be an animator.

"I'd pop an animated movie into the VHS player and pause it and I'd draw what was on the screen," she recalls.

"It's a very unorthodox lifestyle, but I wouldn't trade it for anything."

Details

- The Calgary Comic & Entertainment Expo takes place Friday to Sunday at the BMO Centre in Stampede Park.
- The Art of Laurie B! can be found at Booth 822.
- Other special guests include Lost's Hayden Panettiere, Stargate SG-1's Amanda Tapping, Fringe's John Noble and Buffy the Vampire Slayer's James Marsters.

2

SCENE

Scene in brief

Jack White wrangled for Lone Ranger

Walt Disney Pictures has wrangled Jack White to compose the score for The Lone Ranger. The studio announced Tuesday that the Grammy-winning rocker will write, produce and perform the score for director Gore Verbinski's upcoming adaptation of The Lone Ranger. The Lone Ranger will mark The White Stripes front-man's first time scoring a feature film. The film stars Johnny Depp as Tonto and Armie Hammer as John Reid. It is set to debut May 31, 2013.

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On the web

From playing a good guy or bad, TV to theatre, Topher Grace enjoys a varied acting career

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Will Peter Jackson's Hobbit get panned before it even opens?

Sneak peek at new shooting style confounds some critics. What does this mean for the future of film?

Future of film

The film is far from finished ... That also means Jackson has time to tweak the look of the film.

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

CinemaCon attendees got a first look at 10-minutes of footage of Peter Jackson's upcoming the Hobbit: an Unexpected Journey, due in theatres this December.

But the main curiosity over the new film — the first of two based on J.R.R. Tolkien's book — wasn't so much the film itself, but how it was shot: Jackson filmed the Hobbit at 48 frames per second, double the normal speed of film. Jackson, via a video introduction, maintained that the higher frame rate creates a smoother image for the viewer.

"The movement feels more real," Jackson said. "It's much more gentle on the eyes."

But viewers at the convention — mostly cinema owners and press — weren't convinced, and film bloggers were fast and furious with their criticism.

"The movement of the actors looked… strange. Almost as if the performances had been partly sped up," said Slashfilm's Peter Sciretta. "It didn't look cinematic."

And Devin Faraci of Badass Digest offered, "Here's what The Hobbit looked like to me: a hi-def version of the 1970s I, Claudius.

It is drenched in a TV-like — specifically '70s-era BBC — video look. People on Twitter have asked if it has that soap-opera look you get from badly calibrated TVs at Best Buy, and the answer is an emphatic YES."

The film is far from finished, of course, as some of the footage included green screens where scenery will be digitally added.

That also means Jackson has time to tweak the look of the film.

But the question remains: No matter how it's refined, will this "future of film" — as Jackson, James Cameron and others have asserted — be embraced by general audiences?

Judging by reactions coming out of Las Vegas, no.

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The Hobbit film hasn't even been completed yet but is already facing criticism. HANDOUT

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Edgar Allen Poe is no action hero

The Raven. Sure, he fights crime, but John Cusack wouldn't define his role as such

DORTHY ROBINSON
scene@metronews.ca

John Cusack stars in the new film The Raven. HANDOUT

He rides on horseback while wielding a gun, tracks down a serial killer, drinks (heavily), and composes morbid short stories when he's not trying to save the girl. He's Edgar Allen Poe, action hero.

Or not.

"He's not an action hero, per se," says John Cusack who stars as this swashbuckling — yet still dementedly anguished — Poe in the new thriller The Raven. "Based on what we know of the man and his stories, it's not a stretch to think of him trying to solve a mystery."

Cusack realizes this take — whereupon literature's favorite dark and depressed writer follows a serial killer whose murders are very similar to those described in his most famous stories (The Pit and the Pendulum, The Masque of the Red Death, The Premature Burial, and The Murders in the Rue Morgue, among others) — uses some poetic license. But this "mash-up" version, as he defines it, is what attracted him to the role in the first place.

"A straight biopic would be boring — I love this mash-up," says Cusack with a slight gleam in his eye. "Poe was fascinating and multifaceted but the stories are where the real drama comes in."

And, really, a biopic still wouldn't be true to the man Poe was, Cusack continues.

"It would only be an amalgamation of what you think his life would be," he claims, since so much mystery still surrounds the life and death of the writer. "We (Cusack and director James McTeigue) figured we could paint a clearer picture of who and what he was when he becomes a character in his own stories."

The star claims this unorthodox approach is very Poe-esque.

"He writes about guys who are going crazy. He writes about dreams within dreams. (The Raven) is very Poe."

And really, if you are an actor and don't want to portray one of history's most fascinating and layered characters you should probably just retire.

Quote

"A straight biopic would be boring — I love this mash-up. Poe was fascinating and multi-faceted but where the real drama comes in are the stories — his glorious stories!"

John Cusack
On his new film The Raven

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METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

Beyoncé named World's Most Beautiful Woman

Beyoncé's beauty secret? Having a baby.

"I feel more beautiful than I've ever felt because I've given birth," the singer tells People magazine, which named her the 2012 World's Most Beautiful Woman.

"I have never felt so connected, never felt like I had such a purpose on this earth." Beyoncé and husband Jay-Z welcomed daughter Blue Ivy Carter three months ago.

"The best thing about having a daughter is having a true legacy," Beyoncé adds. "The word 'love' means something completely different now."

Bieber pens song about paternity scandal

Justin Bieber is making the most of his paternity scandal last year.

"(I've written) a song about that whole situation with that girl who said she's having my baby — Mariah Yeater," Bieber says, according to AOL, adding that the track is "about every-thing I've gone through." Yeater claimed that she had a sexual encounter with Bieber at a concert in L.A. when she was 19 and the Canadian pop star was 16, leading to her pregnancy.

Bieber later took a DNA test to disprove her claims.

The Word

Chris Brown breeding, selling pit bull puppies

THE WORD
Dorothy Robinson
scene@metronews.ca

Chris Brown and his family are selling pit bull puppies online — for $1,000 a pop.

The media was tipped off to the pop star's new business venture by his mother, who tweeted a link to the dog-selling site, along with a picture of Brown cuddling one of the puppies. A rep for the singer confirmed to The Associated Press on Tuesday that Brown and his family are indeed selling the 2-month-old pit bulls online.

The publicist's spin on the high price tag is that Brown, whom she defines as "an animal lover," "wants to make sure the dogs go to a good home."

Look, dog breeding is one thing. But breeding pit bulls? That's especially irresponsible. According to recent stats from the Humane Society of the United States, 70 per cent of dogs housed and euthanized in urban animal shelter systems are pit bulls. An even more depressing statistic from the Los Angeles Humane Society says that around 200 pit bulls in L.A. alone are euthanized every day due to over-breeding and lack of adoption opportunities.

The point being: Shelters are overrun with the breed, and thousands upon thousands are killed every year because no one will adopt them. And yet, Brown is selling each puppy for $1,000? Gross.

I'm channelling my inner Bob Barker when I say: I'm pretty sure the way for Brown to show that he's a true "animal lover" is to make sure his pets are spayed and neutered — and not to breed and then sell them on a website. Especially when, come on — does he really need the money?

Mila Kunis ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

Ashton and Mila continue to feed rumour mill

Ashton Kutcher and Mila Kunis may have denied last week's reports that they've become more than just friends, but their recent activities aren't doing much to help that assertion.

The two reportedly shared a weekend getaway up the California coast, according to People magazine.

Witnesses spotted Kutcher and Kunis headed to Carpinteria, Calif., where they grabbed lunch and some fresh fruit Friday — and didn't surface again until Sunday morning. A source close to Kutcher says something like this has been in the cards since their That '70s Show days.

"He was so in love with her for a while when they worked together," says the source. "He thought she was a goddess, was always talking about how beautiful she is. But she was with Macaulay (Culkin) for a lot of that time and also just generally gave off a not-interested vibe."

Ozzy is a grandfather

Jack Osbourne and his fiancée, Lisa Stelly, are the proud parents of a newborn baby girl, welcoming daughter Pearl on Tuesday, his rep confirms to People magazine. It's the first grandchild for Ozzy and Sharon Osbourne. Sharon previously announced her intentions of spoiling the new addition. "I'm going to be the grandmother from hell, because I am going to spoil this baby so bad," she told People earlier this year. "My son and Lisa are going to be like, 'Get her out of here!'"

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3 LIFE

Style file

Narciso Rodriguez honoured

Fashion designer Narciso Rodriguez has always referenced the world of art: Modern paintings are one of his many sources of inspiration.

It seems fitting, then, that El Museo del Barrio will honour the designer of Cuban descent next month during its annual gala. In its announcement, El Museo said that Rodriguez is considered one of the 25 most influential Hispanics in America.

"It's a great compliment. I don't know if it is necessarily true, but it is a great compliment. I like to think that I have given back to the community," Rodriguez said during an AP interview.

Rodriguez said he has been connected to the museum, which promotes Latino, Caribbean and Latin American art, for many years. It also offers youth programs to provide young people access to education. "I am always so proud of what they have done for the community — for New York, for Latinos and beyond the Latino world, for so many unprivileged children, families — with outreach programs," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the Web

Montreal Fashion Week finds a new home at contemporary art complex

Vivienne Westwood: 'I prefer freedom fighter'

Sustainable style. In Westwood's world, it's not about Earth Day. She'd rather you celebrate Earth Year instead. We discuss.

KENYA HUNT
Metro World News in London

When did you first become conscious of the environment and our impact on it?

For a couple of decades I've been really upset about the problem of climate change, and I couldn't bear the idea that we're still cutting down the rainforests. I just couldn't believe that the statistics were getting worse, not better. And then I read an interview with James Lovelock. He is a genius, the scientist who launched the 'Gaia' Theory.

Gaia is the name the Greeks gave to the earth goddess. James Lovelock thinks we are too late to stop climate change and that by the end of this century there will be only 1 billion people left. Fortunately! The consensus among almost all scientists is that we have now only up to 2020 to do something — eight more years.

And it's important for Americans to know that the [people who deny that climate change exists] are few but they are well-funded and well-publicized.

Do you consider yourself an environmental activist?

A name I prefer is 'freedom fighter.' I've got a voice because I've got a lot of credibility as a fashion designer. So I have been using my fashion for the last five or so years as a medium.

I use slogans and graphics in lots of my designs. I also give my fashion shows titles related to saving the planet or climate change, like Plus Five Degrees. Plus five degrees is uninhabitable, it looks good on a T-shirt and promotes awareness.

What would you say to people who view your fighting to save the planet and reduce consumption from the helm of a global fashion empire as being contradictory?

My aim is quality, not quantity. Timeless clothes that last, for people who make choices and don't just consume. For people who can't afford my clothes, I hope to provide a standard of good design, which will help them to choose clothes that will suit them.

What are some changes that you've made in your own life to live in a more sustainable, ecologically-minded way?

I ride a bicycle for convenience and I'm a person who doesn't like to waste things. I never waste food, for example. I was brought up after the war, so I'm used to not wasting.

I also don't eat meat. I'm a very privileged person, living in this part of the world, so I can make choices and my preferred food really is just fruit and vegetables. You don't need other food. This is optimum health. Once you get into it, nothing else tastes so good.

Safe spending

Our three favourite bags from Vivienne Westwood's line, Ethical Fashion Africa, handmade in Nairobi. viviennewestwood.com

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I LOVE CRAP CLUTCH
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BARK FLOWER CLUTCH
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Gorgeously green

Vivienne Westwood's tips for living sustainably:

- **Buy less.** "Buy less, choose well and make it last. I really do think that people should exercise choice and not just consume without thought — sucking up stuff all the time, one thing after another."
- **Experience art.** "Go to the art galleries. The art lover is not consuming. He invests in the present world by engaging with the genius of the past. 'You get out what you put in,' is my motto."
- **Read.** "Read. The best fashion accessory is a book."
- **Get cooking.** "Buying and preparing your own food is to engage with the world. It gives you a sense of reality."
- **D.I.Y.** "As in, wear a piece of beautiful fabric, borrow stuff from your friends and style it in with your own clothes."

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Curry pastes — which are used in Thai, Indonesian, Malaysian and Indian cooking — combine dry spices with ground fresh herbs and roots, garlic, chilies and other ingredients to form thick pastes. These often are classified by colour.

Green-curry paste, for example, is a fiery Thai blend that combines green chilies, lemon grass, garlic, shrimp paste and kaffir lime leaves. It usually is blended with coconut milk to season beef, pork and chicken.

Yellow-curry paste is a bit milder and usually sports garlic, lemon grass, galangal, cumin, cinnamon and turmeric. It's popular for adding to soups.

But the most versatile and widely used is red-curry paste, a mash of red chilies, coriander roots and leaves, shrimp paste, lemon grass, garlic, shallots and galangal.

It's got some kick, but it won't sear your mouth. It's used with everything from chicken, duck and beef to pork and shrimp. And it lands in everything from stews, curries and soups to dressings, marinades and condiments.

Conveniently, red-curry paste also is the easiest variety to find at the local grocer. It usually is packed in small glass jars or cans and can be found in the Asian section. Once opened, the remainder can be refrigerated for months.

Here, it's used to make Red Curry Chicken Noodles.

Ingredients

- 12-oz package fresh fettuccine pasta
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 1 large yellow onion, diced
- 1 red bell pepper, cored and diced
- 14-oz can coconut milk
- 1 1/2 to 2 1/2 tbsp red curry paste (more or less to taste)
- Meat from a 1 1/2-lb. rotisserie chicken
- 1/3 cup chopped fresh cilantro
- 1 lime, quartered

1. Bring saucepan of salted water to a boil. Add the pasta and cook according to package directions. Drain and set aside.

2. Meanwhile, in a large sauté pan over medium-high, heat the olive oil. Add the onion and bell pepper, then sauté until tender, about 10 minutes. Add the coconut milk and red curry paste. Stir until the curry paste and coconut milk are smooth, then bring to a simmer.

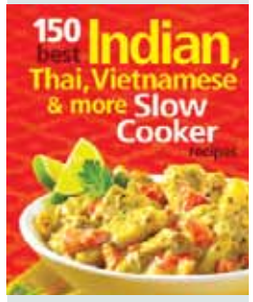
3. Chop or pull the chicken meat into bite-size chunks, then add to the coconut milk mixture. Toss well to coat evenly. If the meat is cold, return to a simmer. Stir in the cilantro.

4. Serve the pasta topped with the chicken. Alternatively, add the drained pasta to the pan with the chicken and toss to mix. Just before serving, squeeze a bit of lime juice over each plate.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cookbook of the Week

150 Best Indian, Thai, Vietnamese & More Slow Cooker Recipes



Slow cookers and curries go well together, and that's the idea behind Sunil Vijayakar's latest book.

The release boasts recipes with ingredients you'll easily find at your local grocer. There are also creative twists on accompaniments along with slow cooker know-how such as preparing various types of food for the slow cooker.

Among the recipes are Bangkok Sour Pork Curry, Sticky Jasmine Rice, Spiced Prawn and Pineapple Curry, Creamy Spinach and Tomato Dhal, and more. METRO

Potatoes, chickpeas meet curry

On busy weeknights, we take our dinner shortcuts wherever we can find them. But this doesn't require sacrificing healthy home cooking.

Make smart choices — as in this recipe for red curry potatoes and chickpeas — and you can have a great from-scratch dinner on the table in under 30 minutes.

The flavours of Thai are the perfect marriage for potatoes and chickpeas. This hearty healthy carb filled dish is topped with the protein kick of chickpeas and the comforting creaminess of potatoes.

To make the meal even more substantial, add the meat from a rotisserie chicken at the same time as the potatoes.

1. In a microwave-safe bowl, combine potatoes and water. Microwave on High for about 5 minutes or until potatoes are almost cooked. **2.** In a dry skillet set over medium heat; toast cumin and cinnamon for 1 minute. Add coconut milk and curry paste, then bring to a simmer.

3. Add chickpeas and red onion, and return to a simmer.

4. Add potatoes to pan and toss to combine. Cover and reduce heat to low; simmer for 12 minutes.

5. Stir in the cilantro, vinegar, salt and pepper. Sprinkle with green onions to serve. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR, TV CELEBRITY CHEF (FOR MORE, VISIT EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients

- 3 large Yukon gold potatoes, cut into 2.5-cm (1-inch) chunks
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) water
- 5 ml (1 tsp) each ground cumin and cinnamon
- 1 can (398 ml/14 oz) coconut milk
- 15 ml (1 tbsp) Thai red curry paste
- 1 can (540 ml/19 oz) chickpeas, drained
- 1 small red onion, thinly sliced
- 60 ml (1/4 cup) chopped fresh cilantro
- 5 ml (1 tsp) cider or white vinegar
- Pinch each salt and ground black pepper
- 2 green onions, chopped

This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Top 6 small appliances

DESIGN CENTRE
Karl Lohnes
home@metronews.ca

6

Hamilton Beach Griddle

Independent temperature controls for each side of the griddle and two separate cooking surfaces with individual drainage means warming and cooking a variety of food when entertaining is a breeze. For use as a griddle, grill or warming tray, it's great for summer entertaining at the cottage or at-home parties. $70, HamiltonBeach.ca

5

Kenwood Cooking Chef

The appliance world is buzzing about this kitchen machine that cooks and stirs at the same time with an induction-cooking feature. Beat, whisk, blend, process, grind and juice with the attachments. It's arriving in fall 2012 with a price of $2,000 at department and specialty stores across Canada. KenwoodWorld.com

4

De'Longhi Lattissima Plus

Works with the Nespresso Coffee Capsule System and includes a milk container for lattes and cappuccinos — all with a simple push of a button. The milk container can be refrigerated when not in use and the illuminated controls make selecting your drink choice simple. It's one of the best-priced machines of its kind at $399. Nespresso.com

3

Brevill's Smart Oven

One of the most-used cooking appliances is the toaster oven. The Smart Oven BOV800XL heats from 120-500 F, with a convection fan for fast and easy baking (which reduces cooking time by 30 minutes). It automatically adjusts the heat for an exact cooking process. $330, The Bay, Breville.ca

2

Cuisinart Professional Food Slicer

For an at-home deli, this appliance allows you to choose the thickness of cheeses and meats — great for those who are diet-conscious or charcuterie aficionados. It saves time in the kitchen, and allows families to cut roasts into healthy sliced meats. $130, cusinart.ca

1

Cuisinart Meat Grinder

All stainless-steel housing with a heavy-duty motor and die-cast hopper for great strength, this meat grinder comes with three cutting plates (fine, medium and coarse). It includes two sausage attachments. Make meatloaf and sausages — and know what ingredients you are feeding your family. Great for summer grilling! $130, Canadian Tire and Home Outfitters, cuisinart.ca

Comforters

Got a lumpy comforter? Try this

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit charlesmacpherson.com

Dear Charles the butler,
My boyfriend washed his comforter, and dried it without putting tennis balls in the dryer with it. Now it's lumpy. Is it ruined or can this be salvaged somehow?
Devi

Hello Devi,

Great news — all may not be lost! Put the comforter back in the washing machine (ideally a front loader) and wash it with cold water and a quarter the amount of soap that you would normally use.

After it's been washed put it into the dryer and make sure to include several tennis balls in white tube socks.

As the comforter is drying, turn off the automatic sensor and leave it in the dryer for at least a good two hours. This will allow both the outside and inside to dry properly.

Good luck!

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

It's possible to recover a lumpy comforter that wasn't washed properly. ISTOCK IMAGES

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Five cheap and easy ways to green your home

We asked James Kleyla, a renovations expert at Home Depot in the U.S., for easy home-improvement projects that anyone — even hammer-averse you — can do to help out Mother Earth. Bonus: You'll save huge on your bills, too

MEREDITH ENGEL
Metro New York

Install new light bulbs

Trade in your incandescents for the more energy-efficient compact fluorescent, LED or halogen bulbs.

"They use so much less energy, up to one-eighth the energy compared to an incandescent bulb, so we're burning less oil and coal," Kleyla says. Another benefit? "They last so much longer."

Get the right thermostat

Installing a thermostat with a timer may ensure you're not running your central air conditioning when you're not home, which is great, but Kleyla asks why cycle your system at all if you're not there? It can save a considerable amount to turn it off completely when no one is in the house.

Change your air filters

Regarding your air conditioning and heating systems: "If you get a dirty filter in there, the air just doesn't circulate well," Kleyla says.

Invest in rechargeable tools

If you live outside the city, look into rechargeable battery garden tools instead of those that run on a noisy, inefficient two-cycle engine.

"How many times have you been trying to sleep in on a Sunday morning and all of a sudden you hear those two-cycle engines? They're coming out with new garden tools that are 18 volt, and they're rechargeable, so they (make) much less noise.

Replace your toilet

"You should try to switch out your old toilet as soon as possible because the old toilets use a lot more water than the newer toilets do," Kleyla says. It isn't the most glamorous of jobs, but you can do it without a plumber — if you want to, that is. "It can be done relatively easily, but oftentimes people want a plumber."

Online resources

- **sierraclubgreenhome.com.** Covers everything from energy audits to waste recycling.
- **environment.nationalgeographic.com/environment/green-guide.** Includes a home quiz to determine where you are leaking energy and eco-friendly TV buying tips.
- **globalstewards.org.** Offers environmental tips for sustainable living and solutions for a more sustainable way of life, for you, your family and your home.

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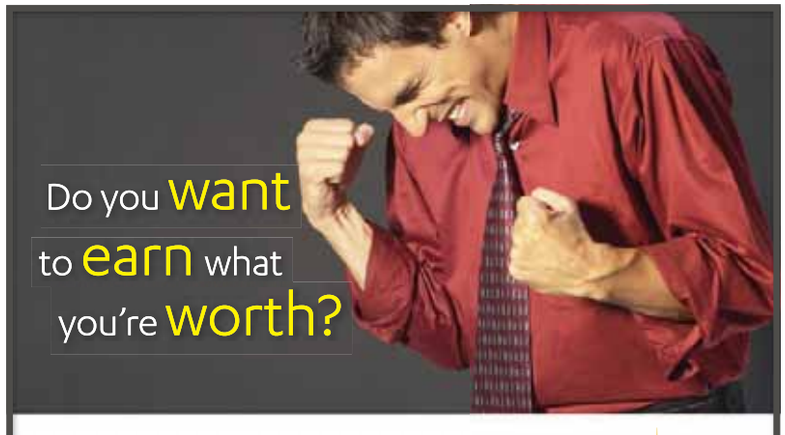

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Thank science for innovative home decor

A designer's delight.
The latest synthetic materials are strong, malleable, lightweight and take colour easily

Your salad spinner is made of the same sort of silicone rubber developed to make Neil Armstrong's moon boots. And those acrylic salad bowls and patio chairs? Second World War fighter pilots needed safer canopies and Plexiglas was the answer.

Manufacturers of home goods are quick to adopt innovative materials and technology, and synthetics have long been a favourite. The newest ones are a designer's delight: they're malleable, strong, lightweight and take colour easily.

From a crafting standpoint, acrylics are easy to work with. Using heat, they can be stretched and moulded without losing clarity, and joints are heat fused rather than glued or screwed, which makes a finished piece virtually seamless.

Larry Abel and Raymond McCallister, designers for Palm Springs, Calif., run Art Style Innovation, a fun factory of whimsical takes on vintage and modern decor such as curvy acrylic vases and rippled bowls in neon hues.

Their playful acrylic bookends come in a variety of silhouettes including cats, roosters, dogs, flowers, and even a pair of shapely female legs. You'll find clear acrylic cube tables, too, in modern takes on classic architectural design (artstyleinnovation.com, $35 and up).

Clear acrylic material works well in small spaces — entryways, boudoirs, small living rooms — because it's nearly invisible. Designer Benjamin Noriega-Ortiz likes to use a milky-white acrylic for an ethereal quality (plexicraft.com).

Italian design powerhouse Kartell has frequently dominated the synthetic materials marketplace with "wow" factor pieces such as Philippe Starck's Louis Ghost chair and Ferruccio Laviani's Bourgie lamp. There's a range of colourful transparent pieces in the company's collection (allmodern.com, from $73).

Kartell also has manufactured Starck's Bubble chair, a cartoonishly scaled piece that looks like an oversize upholstered chair but is made entirely out of polyethylene. It will survive indoors or out, and comes in several shades (allmodern.com, $680).

San Francisco-based Bkr makes a glass water bottle with a silicone sleeve in hip shades like jet black, rocket red, julep teal and space indigo. Bkr donates to cancer research as well as clean water projects in Africa (mybkr.com, $28). THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Neon acrylic vases by Art Innovation Style. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Colourful La Marie chairs by Kartell. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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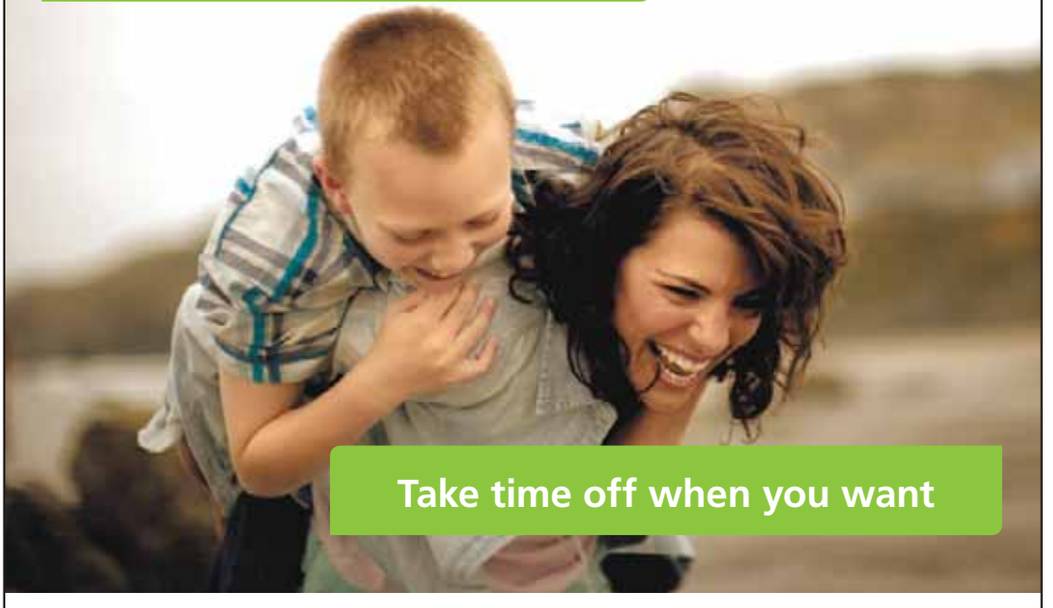

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metro

FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS

Thursday, April 26, 2012

Home keys

Tips. Ask plenty of questions and write down answers when buying your first home

PETER DOYLE
For Metro

Buying a first house can be a reality check, but by following some basic guidelines it may make the process less complicated. MONKEY BUSINESS/THINKSTOCK

Given that buying a home is the largest financial transaction most of us ever make, it's no surprise that it can be a complicated undertaking.

Before you start shopping, make sure to do your research. Set aside lots of time to consult with experts such as bankers and mortgage brokers, real estate agents and lawyers.

Ask plenty of questions and write down the answers you receive. That way, you will have the information you need to make the right decision.

How much house can I afford?

Buying a first house is definitely a reality check. Before you start considering neighbourhoods and looking at homes, it's crucial to establish a price range. You will need a minimum down payment of five per cent of the house's purchase price (on a $400,000 home, that's $20,000). The general rule is: The more money you put down, the less you will have to spend on mortgage and insurance payments.

Start by making a budget

Calculate how much you currently spend each month on everything: Rent, food, insurance, loan payments, taxes, travel and entertainment.

Make a list of your assets (savings, vehicles, property), as well as your current and projected salary. Then make a few appointments with bankers and mortgage brokers; They will help you figure out an affordable price range. Pay close attention to interest rates; a difference of only a quarter point (e.g. three per cent versus 3.25 percent) can quickly add up to thousands of dollars.

If you have been wise enough to invest in a registered retirement savings plan (RRSP), consider the federal government's Home Buyers' Plan. Under the plan, you may withdraw up to $25,000 from an RRSP to invest in your first home. There is no tax penalty if you pay the money back within 15 years.

House shopping

When it comes to house shopping, research is your best friend. Start with you and your partner: where would you like to live? If you commute, how far are you willing to live from your workplace? What home features are most important to you (garage, yard, home office, ensuite bathroom)? Can you handle house repairs and renovations? Be honest: For most couples, buying a home is a stressful experience.

Once you have an idea of what you are looking for, decide whether to shop on your own or with a real estate agent. A good agent will save you much time and effort; if you choose to work on your own, you will have to handle dozens of extra details, such as preparing legal offers to purchase.

Happy house hunting!

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Market roundup

Metro goes coast to coast with a market-by-market analysis of what you can buy for $300,000 to $350,000 in Canada today.

COMPILED BY DUNCAN MCALLISTER

Halifax

A brand new 2,412-square-foot home located three minutes from the downtown bridge in the desirable Willow Ridge subdivision. Asking price is $336,900. This spectacular R-2000, two-storey home is finished on all three levels. Three bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a seven-year new home warranty from Whitestone builders. Listing agent Larry Foran says it's just a great subdivision.
Listing: Keller Williams Realty, brokerage

Ottawa

A three-bedroom, four-storey end unit townhouse with almost 1,900 square feet, including finished basement and four bathrooms. Asking price is $342,500. Built in 2005, the unit features hardwood flooring throughout. Listing agent Michel Brissette says there have been quite a few upgrades on this unit, including a large deck and backyard shed.
Listing: Exit Realty Matrix, brokerage

Toronto

This bright and spacious three-year-old, two-storey Humber Summit townhouse is located on Islington Avenue. Asking price is $339,900 plus $179 monthly maintenance fees. With two bedrooms, two bathrooms, featuring hardwood floors and open-concept kitchen, granite countertops and limestone flooring. Listing agent Andreia Oliveira says you can still find a home in Toronto for less than $500,000.
Listing: Royal LePage Supreme Realty, brokerage

London, Ont.

This one just sold at press time. Asking price was $324,900 and it sold for $329,000 with three offers. A three-bedroom home in one of the most sought after areas of north London. Fully-fenced yard with deck and hot tub. Finished basement, gas fireplace and double-car garage.
Listing: RE/MAX Centre City Realty, brokerage

Winnipeg

A unique condo conversion in the Exchange district in the northern part of the city. Asking price is $329,000. Bill Thiessen specializes in downtown properties and says the building is occupied by an interesting and eclectic mix of savvy urbanites. This 1,279-square-foot suite is in the stylish Travellers Building. Ensuite laundry, open-concept design, wood floors and designer lighting.
Listing: RE/MAX Performance Realty, brokerage

Edmonton

A three-bedroom, two-and-a-half bathroom house in southeast Edmonton's Charlesworth community asking $345,000. Built in 2006, the 1,500-square-foot home features a master bedroom with four-piece ensuite and walk-in closets, upper-level laundry, kitchen with walk-in pantry and island, gas fireplace and double garage on a quiet street.
Listing: Century 21 A.L.L. Stars Realty, brokerage

Calgary

A modernist two-bedroom, 1,070-square-foot condo in the Sole Vista in Renfrew, within walking distance to downtown. Asking price is $329,900. With two bedrooms and two bathrooms, the unit features nine-foot ceilings, a parking spot, gas fireplace, ensuite laundry and sunny south patio. Listing agent Jeff Neustaedter says the Calgary condo market has been strong this spring.
Listing: RE/MAX House of Real Estate, brokerage

Regina

An immaculate three-plus-one bedroom, three-bathroom, 1,288-square-foot home located in the lower mid-northwest of the city. Asking price was $349,900 and it just sold at press time on the same day it was listed. Bath and laundry room on main floor. Second floor has four-piece bath and three bedrooms. Basement features large family room, bedroom and ¾ bath.
Listing: RE/MAX Joyce Tourney Realty, brokerage

Vancouver

Houses are scarce in Canada's most expensive city. This one-bedroom, one-bathroom, 598-square-foot condominium is located in desirable South Granville, just 10 minutes from Granville Island Market. At press time the unit sold for $10,000 above the asking price of $329,000 with six offers. Listing agent Stephen Burke says it is a well-priced property in a great area, good for first-time buyers.
Listing: Sutton Group West Coast Realty, brokerage

Saskatoon

Located right in the city, this five-bedroom 1,203-square-foot corner lot home near Westmount is perfect for a young family. Asking price is $308,500. Features finished basement, euro kitchen, central vacuum and double concrete driveway. Close to schools and park, walk to downtown.
Listing: Coldwell Banker Rescom Realty, brokerage

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Buying decisions. Do your homework before you start looking, Rinomato says

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Sandra Rinomato, host of HGTV's Buy Herself, says you should ask yourself how much money and time you can dedicate to owning a home when you're getting ready to buy. DARREN GOLDSTEIN/DSG PHOTO/THE CANADIAN PRESS

You've got a bit of a down payment tucked away — what to buy? A condo? Townhome? Home?

Sandra Rinomato, a real estate agent with Rinomato & Partners and host of HGTV's Buy Herself, helps figure out what's best for you.

Know your workload

While you may grumble about condominium maintenance fees, remember they do lighten your workload. So ask yourself: How much money — and time — can you dedicate to owning a home? "And the question is: Are you really going to do it?" Rinomato asks. "There are maintenance issues that come along with owning a house, such as cutting grass and weeding. Are you prepared to put the time and money in?"

Do some homework

Determine what your budget will buy you in the area you are looking for. Will it buy a smallish condo? A pint-sized house? Or if you head outside of the city, a larger house? "In order to get what you want in your budget, are you going to have to travel a long way?" Rinomato asks.

"What does that do to your carbon footprint? And the amount of free time you have?"

What did you grow up in?

If you grew up in a house for example, that can influence how you feel about condo life. "Something I'm coming across on the show is that the women have grown up in houses and have never lived in an apartment-style condo building so they don't know if it's the right thing for them," Rinomato says. "Yes, it's maintenance-free, but will you be upset with parking underground? What if you forget something and you're in your pyjamas and have to head down to your car? That can bother some people."

In the end, Rinomato notes that both options are solid investments, including condos which previously had a bad reputation as a poor asset choice.

"You can keep a condo as an investment property after you've moved on. And if it's located well, you'll have no problem renting it out and it'll pay for itself," she says. "Any real estate investment that is properly thought through is a good investment in my opinion."

What first-time homeowners need

As a first-time homeowner, you have set out on an unfamiliar journey. To help ensure smooth sailing, use this checklist; prowl garage sales to find good quality items at low prices.

Indoors

- Décor: Window treatments, rugs, lamps, lights, furniture.
- Kitchen essentials: Meat thermometer, cutting board, set of knives, oven mitts, all-clad pots, roasting pan, food processor, stainless steel mixing bowls.
- Vacuum cleaner.
- Humidifier, dehumidifier.
- Linens, towels.
- Extension cords, surge protector.
- Garbage cans.
- Ladder.
- Fire extinguisher.
- Remove locks from all entrance doors and take them to a hardware store to re-key — it's cheaper than buying new locks.

Outdoors

- Barbecue.
- Garden furniture.
- Snow shovel or blower.
- Lawn mower.
- Gardening equipment: hose, sprinkler, trowel, shovel, rake, hoe, push broom.

Tools for basic home repairs

- Toolbox.
- The basics: Vise grips, needle-nose pliers, screwdriver set, wire cutter/stripper, tape measure, electrical tester, reversible drill with set of bits, utility knife, handsaw, level, safety glasses, pry bar, chisel.
- Flashlights.
- Lubricant (such as WD40).
- Duct tape.

Save on utility bills

If you are like most new homeowners, you have a large mortgage to pay off over 20 or more years. A good way to become debt-free more quickly is to reduce your energy bills and use the savings to pay down the mortgage. Start by establishing a baseline: Ask for copies of the previous owner's bills for hydro, gas and heating oil. Monitor your bills closely and compare them with old ones, paying close attention to the amounts of energy consumed. Here are some tips to help you reduce consumption:

- Make sure the temperature of your water heater is set no higher than 55 C (120 F).
- Install ceiling fans and use them properly (pushing warm air down in winter and drawing cool air up in summer will reduce your heating and cooling needs).
- Use a programmable thermostat.
- Fix any leaks in taps, sinks and toilets.
- Install and use an outdoor clothesline, and indoor drying rack.
- Change the filter on your furnace regularly (typically four to six times per year).
- Install a rain barrel and use it when watering the garden.

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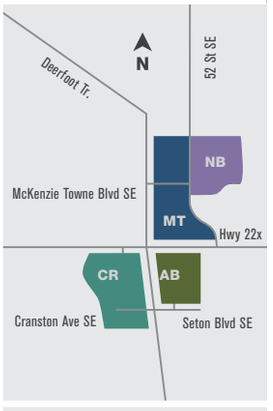

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Location, location, location

Choice. Would you rather live in the suburbs or in an urban setting?

ASTRID VAN DEN BROEK
For Metro

Montagues versus the Capulets. East Coast versus West Coast rap. Urban versus suburban?

Well, the rivalry that once was a choice for settling down is evolving. Sarah Daniels and Philip DuMoulin, the B.C.-based brother and sister real estate agents and hosts of HGTV Canada's Urban Suburban offer their pointers on how to choose where to live.

Know the differences

Between urban and suburban life. "Urban life typically allows you one car. You can walk out your front door and you're five minutes from the community centre, your local shopping and restaurants and your life is really within five to 10 minutes of schools and everything," says DuMoulin. Meanwhile, a suburban setting will likely offer you newer homes, larger square footage and, overall, more property. And if you work in the city, you can also add on a longer commute time. So what's important to you? Being located near all sorts of options and amenities over a larger home?

Also know your suburbs

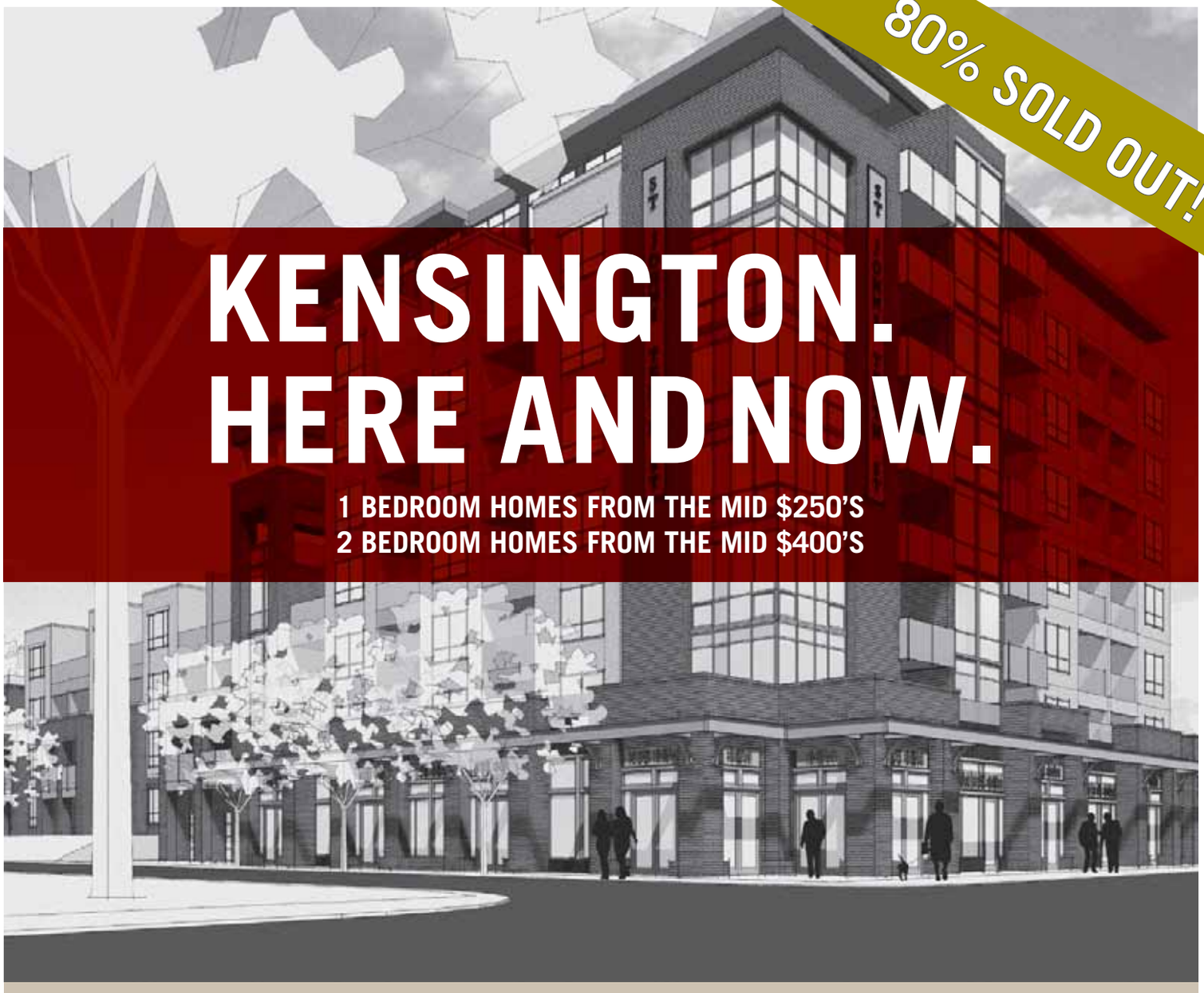
Not all suburbs are the same, notes Daniels — and oftentimes it depends on what city they are located near to. "A lot of suburbs are self-sufficient cities and they don't care what's happening in downtown because they live and work in the suburbs," she says. "But then, as is the case in Calgary, the suburbs are large subdivisions with mini-malls nearby. It's nowhere near the suburbs that you find in, say Vancouver, Toronto or Montreal. It really depends on the city that we're talking about."

Don't buy a house for life

It used to be that we would settle into a property as a couple and that's where you lived and raised a family. Not so anymore. "People are not buying the first house as typically being our only house that they'll ever buy," says DuMoulin. Instead, that starter home might be more like a smaller two-bedroom house to get the couple started in home ownership.

"So it's not when people are having that first child that people are automatically moving to the suburbs," adds Daniels.

"That urban-suburban pull comes from when they're having a second or third child, they have to decide what to do."



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Income property attractive choice

RICHARD WOODBURY
For Metro

Buying an income property is a great way to accumulate wealth at a reduced cost and risk, experts say. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

While purchasing an income property is probably not top of mind for most first-time homebuyers, it's an idea worth considering.

"I like this idea," Toronto-based financial adviser Ross Taylor writes in an email. "It's a great way to accumulate wealth at reduced cost and risk. You are building an asset over time, while servicing the associated debt load and operating costs from rental income."

Most first-time homebuyers will probably have their eyes on an owner-occupied type arrangement, which means they would live in the house, while renting out a room or basement suite.

One reason is that purchasing a pure income property — where the owner doesn't live at the property — requires a larger down payment.

Without doing the proper legwork for the venture, people may find themselves in over their heads.

"For first-time homebuyers, you're walking into home ownership, which is a whole new world ... Then you add in another layer of complexity where you're renting rooms or basements out," notes Jim Yih, the Edmonton-based author of retirehappyblog.ca. The blog has been voted Canada's best personal finance blog by the Globe and Mail.

For this reason, it's crucial people do the necessary research to prepare for the experience. Yih recommends people speak with others who have income properties to get an idea of what the experience involves.

It would also be wise to brush up on tenancy laws and the obligations of landlords and rights of tenants.

Financially speaking, purchasing an income property is not an option for everybody and people must crunch all the numbers to determine whether they can undertake the risks associated with this venture.

This is something Yih calls "stress testing your finances" and it involves determining things such as how an interest rate increase would affect one's ability to meet their financial obligations and whether they would have the cash flow to survive without tenants for a period of time.

"You need to be able to have a little bit of wiggle room in terms of anything that might come up as an expense," notes Chris Kiskunas, the regional mortgage sales manager for Ontario for Royal Bank of Canada.

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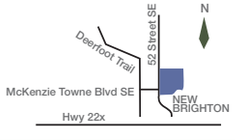

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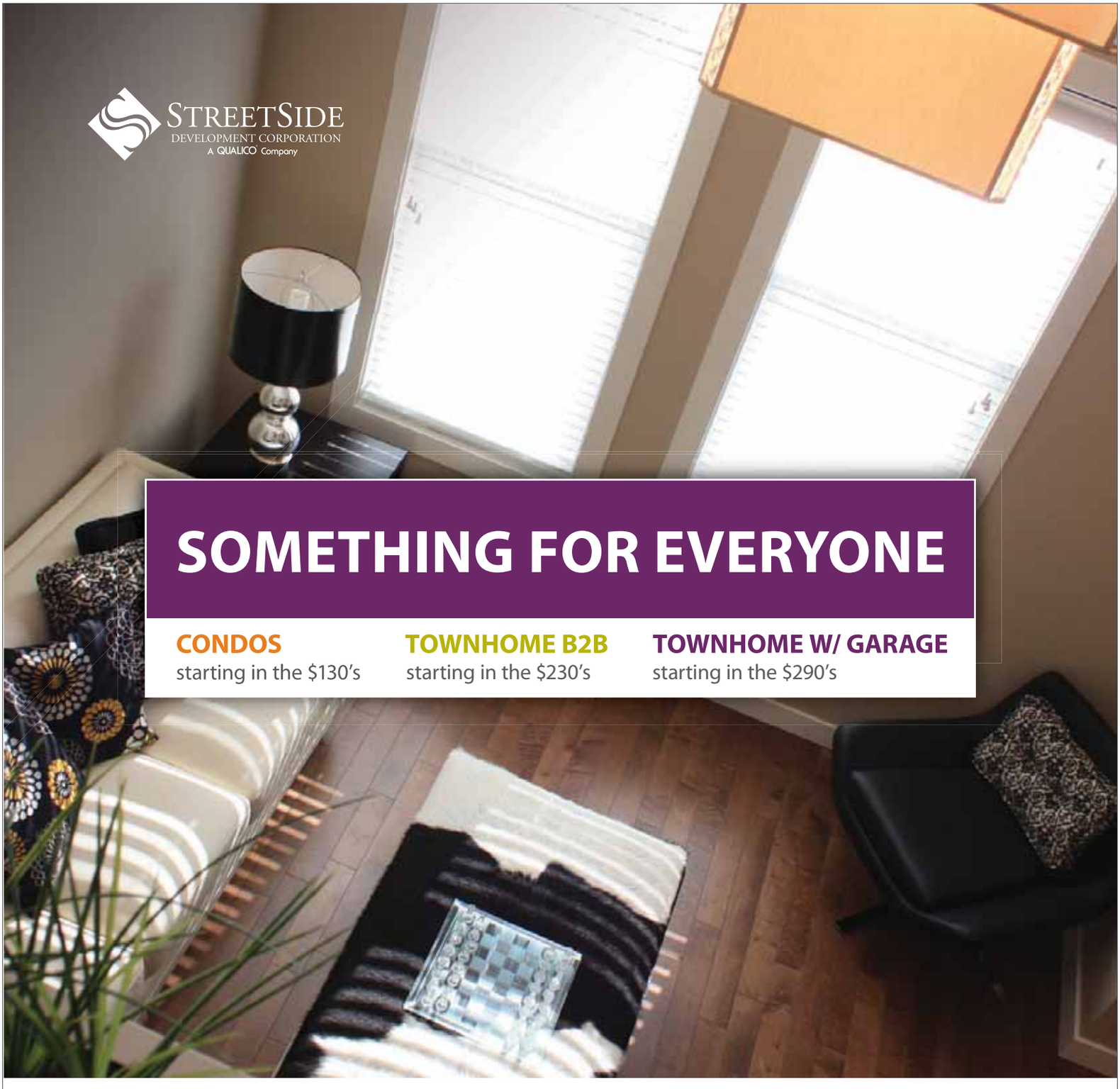

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Whether you are looking at buying a home or a condo, neighbours will be part of the deal. JUPITERIMAGES/THINKSTOCK

Moving in. Neighbours are now part of the deal

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Cooking smells and cigarette smoke are the two most frequent complaints that the condo board hears about, according to Linda Lavallee, president of Condo Corporation, Toronto.

Pets and noise are also disruptive to some people.

"Living in close quarters is only for respectful, considerate and civilized people. It's all about your rights, my rights, and privacy."

Of course, whether you are looking to buy a condo or a semi- or detached home, your neighbours are part of the package.

In condos, people are living on top, next and below each other.

There has to be strong control bylaws — and good manners. It's similar for homeowners in semi- and detached homes where the most common issues are fences and trees.

The property survey will show what's yours, what's theirs and what's shared, says Robert J. Lesperance, Canadian Bar Assocation B.C. branch co-chair for environmental law. He practises in Vancouver.

While you can trim tree branches that are encroaching on your property (as long as it doesn't damage the tree), if a fence is shared, the two homeowners must make decisions about changes together.

Even if the fence is on your property, it's a courtesy to share any changes you are planning with your neighbour.

At the end of the day, your duty is to make sure you don't cause damage to your neighbour's property and to be civil and respective at all times.

If you do have a problem:

The first step is to talk to your neighbour, says Lawless. "Reasonable people should be able to come to a reasonable solution."

Remember that whatever course of action you take, the neighbour will still be there in the morning. You will have to continue to live next to them unless one of you decides to move.

If you can't sort out the problem in person, the next step is to consult municipality bylaws (for example, the laws governing fence height, noise, etc.). A bylaw enforcement officer may be able to resolve the problem.

The last resort is to talk to counsel, says Lesperance.

Typical claims in neighbour dispute cases would be trespassing, nuisance or maybe negligence.

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How to ease the stress of moving

Moving to a new space can be exciting — except the actual moving part. We've talked to some experts to help ease the strain of moving.

Prepping

Georgina Forrest, a professional organizer who runs Smartworks office organizing service in Calgary, Alta., recommends creating a book.

The book would be your go-to, Forrest says, with paper for note-taking, space for business cards and receipts, to-do lists, even places you need to contact for address changes.

"This book went everywhere with us. Even if we were measuring for furniture ... we could take pictures or write measurements and it was always available to us."

Before you move, consider what you want to take with you, and what might be time to ditch.

"Declutter," says Wendy Hollick, a professional organizer, and owner of Neat Spaces professional organizers in the Greater Toronto Area.

Forrest agrees.

"You're moving to a nice new fresh space, do you want to take some old stuff you don't use into it?"

Packing

When you are packing, make sure boxes are labelled properly for the room in which they will go.

Mark a few key things that are in the box, or keep it in a list in your go-to book.

And both professionals recommend investing in packing paper.

"Newspaper just makes everything dirty and you have to wash everything when you unpack it," Hollick says.

If you plan to use movers, check with what kind of service they offer in regards to packing, or what deals they may have with packing supplies.

If you are moving on your own, Hollick says liquor store boxes and banker boxes are great.

Have essentials separate from other packed boxes — it's the stuff you will need first in the new place.

"So it's the things like the coffee pot and some mugs ... toilet paper, towels, soap," Forrest says.

CHRISTINA COPP

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JUPITERIMAGES/THINKSTOCK

Inspectors protect your investment

YLVA VAN BUUREN
For Metro

Several years ago, Maureen fell in love with a small lakeside house in eastern Ontario ... that is until she hired a home inspector. His report showed that the foundation of the house needed major work. "And that was far more than I bargained for," says Maureen.

Having a home inspection done on a property you are interested in purchasing is always a good idea. The home inspector's role is to inform you about the property's condition, explains the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

"Buying a house is the most expensive decision you're likely to make in your lifetime," says Blaine Swan, national president of the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors and a property inspector in Truro, N.S. Whether it's a house or a condominium, we want to protect consumers, says Swan, by providing enough relevant information that they can make an informed decision.

A home inspection is a visual inspection. Some home inspectors use infrared cameras, which can show moisture and air leakage.

Consumers are given a written report that tells them if something is not working properly, needs to be changed, or is unsafe; also if repairs are needed.

Here is a checklist of what the home inspector will check:

- Foundation
- Doors and windows
- Roof and exterior walls
- Attic
- Plumbing and electrical systems (where visible)
- Heating and air conditioning
- Ceilings, walls and floors
- Doors
- Insulation (where visible)
- Ventilation
- Septic tanks, wells or sewer lines (if inspector is qualified)
- Other buildings such as a detached garage
- The lot including drainage
- Structural integrity
- Common areas (in the case of a condominium/strata or co-operative)

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Before you can be pre-approved for a mortgage, you must pre-qualify. ISTOCKPHOTO/THINKSTOCK

The mortgage basics. What you need to know

JANE DOUCET
For Metro

To say that buying a first home can be overwhelming is an understatement. The process comes with a language all its own, mostly around mortgages: Pre-qualification; amortization; fixed, variable, open and closed options; credit-score calculations.

"Working with a trusted mortgage professional can help simplify the process," says Mary Ann Krahulic, the Calgary-based manager of business development for Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Before you sign on the dotted line, make sure you have done the following:

Saved enough for a down payment. The minimum down payment is currently five per cent of a home's value; if your dream house is $350,000, you will need at least $17,500. Put more than 20 per cent down and you won't have to pay mortgage loan insurance. "The more you put down, the less of a credit risk you are for the mortgage lender," says Krahulic.

Checked your credit rating. Lenders look at your credit score to determine what kind of repayment risk you pose. Ask your lender to check it or do so yourself online through Equifax or TransUnion. "If your rating is poor," says Krahulic, "you may have a harder time getting approved."

Received pre-approval. Before you can be pre-approved, you must pre-qualify. A mortgage professional will help you learn what you can afford to buy before you start looking. This involves an honest conversation about your finances that will help determine how much of a loan you can get. The amount you are pre-approved for is how much of a loan the lender has committed to giving you.

Reviewed mortgage options. The two most common types are open (the rate can be locked in and additional payments made) and closed (the rate is locked in and the terms are fixed). Then there are fixed rate (a locked-in rate that won't increase for the term of the mortgage) and variable rate (it fluctuates based on market conditions but typically has a fixed payment).

It's important to learn the terms of each type.

For example, does it allow extra, increased or accelerated payments? Varying payment frequency?

CFL

Stamps going through 'intense' Canadian draft preparation

John Hufnagel has pulled his staff into a huddle ahead of next week's CFL Canadian college draft.

The Calgary Stampeders head coach will conduct at least one mock draft with members of his coaching and football-operations staff on Friday.

A full week before the draft on May 3, the Stamps have put together their rankings of the top Canadian football prospects.

"We just spent three days of intense meetings," said Hufnagel, who also serves as Calgary's general manager. "We came out today with a full ranking as far as how we would like to select them."

Hufnagel and his staff will now spend a couple days "digesting" and thinking about the list to assess if they want to make any changes.

The Stamps own nine picks in this year's draft, including fifth overall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

CFL

Bombers' Khan calls it a career

Obby Khan went back and forth between cracking jokes and tearing up as he announced his retirement Wednesday after eight CFL seasons.

The big Blue Bombers centre had spent the past six seasons with Winnipeg, including comebacks after illness and surgeries because of Crohn's disease.

The 31-year-old had lost his starting job late last season, but was back at centre for the playoffs and the club's loss to B.C. in the Grey Cup.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Capitals forward Mike Knuble celebrates teammate Joel Ward's overtime goal in Boston on Wednesday night. ELISE AMENDOLA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caps put an end to Bruins' cup reign

NHL. Washington advances to second round by eliminating defending champs at home in Boston

This year, the Washington Capitals appear to have saved their best for the post-season.

Joel Ward slammed home a rebound at 2:57 of overtime to give Washington a 2-1 victory over Boston in Game 7 of their first-round playoff series Wednesday night, sending the Capitals to the Eastern Conference semifinals and ending the defending Stanley Cup champion Bruins' hopes of a repeat.

Rookie Braden Holtby stopped 31 shots for Washington in the seventh one-goal game of the series. Matt Hendricks also scored for the Capitals, who barely made the playoffs this year after finishing atop the Eastern Conference in each of the previous two seasons — and winning just one post-season series combined.

"It's a nice sense of accomplishment to be able to get over the hump," Capitals defenceman Karl Alzner said. "It's nice to turn the page, and maybe we're writing a new script."

Tim Thomas made 26 saves for Boston, which was hoping to become the first team to repeat as Stanley Cup champions since the Detroit Red Wings in 1997-98. Tyler Seguin scored the Bruins' only goal.

Game 7

Capitals	Bruins
2	1

Thomas, the reigning Vezina and Conn Smythe Trophy winner, gave Holtby a tap on the shoulder and said, "Great job, kid."

"I'm proud of our team against the defending Stanley Cup champs," said Holtby, a third-stringer making his playoff debut because of injuries to Tomas Vokoun and Michal Neuvirth. "I don't get rattled. It's one of the things I learned: To be able to get to this level you have to be like that."

It was the first time in NHL history that a playoff series had seven games determined by one goal. Four of the games went to overtime, and two others were decided with less than two minutes left in regulation.

"It was very close," Boston defenceman Zdeno Chara said. "We shouldn't be disappointed in what we did this season. We just came up short."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 SPORTS

NHL awards

Lundqvist headlines Vezina finalists

Henrik Lundqvist of the New York Rangers, Jonathan Quick of the Los Angeles Kings and Pekka Rinne of the Nashville Predators are the finalists for the NHL's Vezina Trophy for best goaltender. The league announced the finalists Wednesday. The winner will be announced June 20 at the NHL awards ceremony in Las Vegas.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

On the web

The role of the closer typically comes with a pay bump in the bullpen, but could it also be considered danger pay? Getting the final three outs is taking its toll as seven closers have spent time on the disabled list already in the young MLB season. Scan the code for the story.

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MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	11	7	.611	—
Tampa Bay	11	7	.611	—
Toronto	**10**	**8**	**.556**	**1**
New York	10	8	.556	1
Boston	7	10	.412	3½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	9	7	.563	—
Chicago	10	8	.556	—
Detroit	10	8	.556	—
Minnesota	5	14	.263	5½
Kansas City	4	14	.222	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	15	4	.789	—
Oakland	10	10	.500	5½
Seattle	9	10	.474	6
Los Angeles	6	12	.333	8½

Yesterday's results
Baltimore 3 **Toronto 0**
Seattle 9 Detroit 1
Texas 7 N.Y. Yankees 3
Oakland 5 Chicago White Sox 4 (14 inn.)
Kansas City 8 Cleveland 2
Tampa Bay 3 L.A. Angels 2
Boston 7 Minnesota 6
Tuesday's results
Baltimore 2 **Toronto 1**
Seattle 7 Detroit 4
Texas 2 N.Y. Yankees 0
Oakland 2 Chicago White Sox 0
Tampa Bay 5 L.A. Angels 0
Cleveland 4 Kansas City 3
Boston 11 Minnesota 2
Today's games
All times Eastern
Kansas City (Mendoza 0-2) at Cleveland (Tomlin 1-1), 12:05 p.m.
Seattle (Noesi 1-2) at Detroit (Porcello 1-1), 1:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Williams 1-1) at Tampa Bay (Moore 0-1), 1:10 p.m.
Toronto (Hutchison 1-0) at Baltimore (Matusz 0-3), 7:05 p.m.
Boston (Doubront 0-0) at Chicago White Sox (Humber 1-0), 8:10 p.m.

ORIOLES 3, BLUE JAYS 0

Toronto	ab	r	h	bi	Baltimore	ab	r	h	bi
YEscor ss	4	0	0	0	EnChvz lf	4	0	0	0
KJhnsn 2b	4	0	0	0	Hardy ss	4	0	1	0
Bautist rf	4	0	1	0	Markks rf	2	1	0	0
Lind 1b	3	0	1	0	AdJons cf	3	0	1	1
Thams lf	4	0	2	0	Wieters c	4	0	1	0
RDavis pr	0	0	0	0	C.Davis 1b	3	1	1	1
Encrnc 3b	4	0	1	0	Betemt 3b	3	1	1	1
Lawrie dh	4	0	1	0	MrRynl dh	3	0	2	0
Rasms cf	3	0	0	0	Flahrty 2b	2	0	0	0
Arencii c	3	0	0	0					
Totals	**33**	**0**	**6**	**0**	**Totals**	**28**	**3**	**7**	**3**
Toronto					**000 000 000**			**0**	
Baltimore					**010 100 01x**			**3**	

E—Encarnacion (1), Y.Escobar (2), Betemit 2 (4). DP—Toronto 4, Baltimore 2. LOB—Toronto 7, Baltimore 5. 2B—Hardy (2), Ad.Jones (5). HR—C.Davis (2), Betemit (2).

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
Toronto						
Drabek L,2-1	6	5	2	2	3	3
E.Crawford	1	1	0	0	0	1
Frasor	1	1	1	1	1	1
Baltimore						
Hammel W,3-0	7	4	0	0	1	7
Lindstrom H,2	1	0	0	0	0	2
Strop S,2-3	1	2	0	0	0	0

T—2:24. A—10,415 (45,971).

NATIONAL LEAGUE

EAST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Washington	14	4	.778	—
Atlanta	11	7	.611	3
New York	10	8	.556	4
Philadelphia	9	10	.474	5½
Miami	7	10	.412	6½

CENTRAL DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
St. Louis	12	7	.632	—
Milwaukee	9	10	.474	3
Cincinnati	9	9	.500	2½
Pittsburgh	8	10	.444	3½
Houston	7	12	.368	5
Chicago	6	13	.316	6

WEST DIVISION

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	13	5	.722	—
San Francisco	9	9	.500	4
Colorado	9	9	.500	4
Arizona	9	10	.474	4½
San Diego	5	14	.263	8½

Yesterday's results
St. Louis 5 Chicago Cubs 1
Houston 7 Milwaukee 5
Colorado 2-1 Pittsburgh 1-5
Cincinnati 4 San Francisco 2
Philadelphia 7 Arizona 2
Washington 7 San Diego 2
N.Y. Mets 5 Miami 1
Atlanta at L.A. Dodgers
Tuesday's results
Atlanta 4 L.A. Dodgers 3
Philadelphia 8 Arizona 5
Cincinnati 9 San Francisco 2
Milwaukee 9 Houston 6
Washington 3 San Diego 1
Pittsburgh 5 Colorado 4
Chicago Cubs 3 St. Louis 2 (10 inn.)
N.Y. Mets 2 Miami 1
Today's games
All times Eastern
San Francisco (Vogelsong 0-1) at Cincinnati (Bailey 1-2), 12:35 p.m.
Miami (Nolasco 2-0) at N.Y. Mets (Niese 2-0), 1:10 p.m.
Washington (E.Jackson 1-1) at San Diego (Volquez 0-2), 10:05 p.m.

NL LEADERS

	G	AB	R	H	Avg
Kemp LAD	18	66	18	30	.455
Posey SF	14	51	8	19	.373
DWright NYM	14	52	6	19	.365
Furcal StL	18	72	10	25	.347
Altuve Hou	17	64	9	22	.344
McCutchen Pgh	16	62	9	21	.339
SCastro ChiC	18	71	9	24	.338
Sandoval SF	17	69	13	23	.333
DanMurphy NYM	17	66	5	22	.333
Pierre Pha	16	54	4	18	.333

Runs — Kemp, LA, 18; MEllis, LA, 15; Hart, Mil, 14; Headley, SD, 14; Beltran, StL, 13; DeJesus, Chi, 13; Sandoval, SF, 13; Schafer, Hou, 13.
RBI — Ethier, LA, 22; Kemp, LA, 22; Freeman, Atl, 15; Freese, StL, 15; JMartinez, Hou, 15; Headley, SD, 13; LaRoche, Wash, 13; Sandoval, SF, 13; COyung, Arz, 13.
Hits — Kemp, LA, 30; Furcal, StL, 25; Bourn, Atl, 24; SCastro, Chi, 24; Sandoval, SF, 23; Altuve, Hou, 22; DanMurphy, NY, 22.
Doubles — Cuddyer, Col, 8; Furcal, StL, 8; YMolina, StL, 8; Tejada, NY, 7; BCrawford, SF, 6; Freeman, Atl, 6; Headley, SD, 6; GSanchez, Mia, 6.
Triples — OHudson, SD, 3; Maybin, SD, 3; Pagan, SF, 3; Schierholtz, SF 3.
Yesterday's games not included

NHL PLAYOFFS

STANLEY CUP

CONFERENCE QUARTER-FINALS
(Best-of-7 series)

EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. RANGERS (1) VS. OTTAWA (8)
(Series tied 3-3)
Tonight's game
Ottawa at N.Y. Rangers, 7 p.m.
BOSTON (2) VS. WASHINGTON (7)
(Washington wins 4-3)
Last night's result
Washington 2 Boston 1 (OT)
FLORIDA (3) VS. NEW JERSEY (6)
(Series tied 3-3)
Tuesday's result
New Jersey 3 Florida 2 (OT)
Tonight's game
New Jersey at Florida, 8:30 p.m.
PITTSBURGH (4) VS. PHILADELPHIA (5)
(Philadelphia wins 4-2)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
VANCOUVER (1) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)
(Los Angeles wins 4-1)
ST. LOUIS (2) VS. SAN JOSE (7)
(St. Louis wins 4-1)
PHOENIX (3) VS. CHICAGO (6)
(Phoenix wins 4-2)
NASHVILLE (4) VS. DETROIT (5)
(Nashville wins 4-1)

CONFERENCE SEMI-FINALS
(Best-of-7 series)

WESTERN CONFERENCE
ST. LOUIS (2) VS. LOS ANGELES (8)
Schedule TBA
PHOENIX (3) VS. NASHVILLE (4)
Schedule TBA
x — if necessary.

CAPITALS 2, BRUINS 1 (OT)
First Period
1. Washington, Hendricks 1 (Carlson, Chimera) 11:23
Penalty — Schultz Wash (tripping) 18:10.
Second Period
2. Boston, Seguin 2 (Boychuk, Ference) 14:27
Penalties — None.
Third Period — No Scoring.
Penalties — Hamrlik Wash (holding stick) 1:18, Bergeron Bos (hooking) 11:00, Chimera Wash (holding) 17:34.
First Overtime
3. Washington, Ward 1 (Knuble) 2:57
Penalties — None.
Shots on goal

Washington	5	8	12	2	—27
Boston	11	14	6	1	—32

Goal — Washington: Holtby (W,4-3-0); Boston: Thomas (L,3-4-0). **Power plays (goals-chances)** — Washington: 0-1; Boston: 0-3.
Attendance — 17,565 (17,565) at Boston.

SCORING LEADERS

	G	A	PT
Giroux, Pha	6	8	14
J.Staal, Pgh	6	3	9
Briere, Pha	5	3	8
McDonald, StL	4	4	8
Crosby, Pgh	3	5	8
Malkin, Pgh	3	5	8
Berglund, StL	3	4	7
Voracek, Pha	2	5	7
Jagr, Pha	1	6	7
Kennedy, Pgh	3	3	6
Zajac, NJ	3	3	6
Dupuis, Pgh	2	4	6
Kunitz, Pgh	2	4	6
Neal, Pgh	2	4	6

Last night's game not included

TENNIS

ATP

BARCELONA OPEN
At Barcelona, Spain
Singles — Second Round
Milos Raonic (11), Thornhill, Ont., def. Igor Andreev, Russia, 6-4, 6-1.
Rafael Nadal (1), Spain, def. Guillermo Garcia-Lopez, Spain, 6-1, 6-2.
David Ferrer (3), Spain, def. Filip Krajinovic, Serbia, 6-0, 6-3.
Janko Tipsarevic (5), Serbia, def. Victor Hanescu, Romania, 7-5, 6-4.
Feliciano Lopez (7), Spain, def. Flavio Cipolla, Italy, 6-4, 6-3.
Kei Nishikori (8), Japan, def. Mikhail Kukushkin, Kazakhstan, 6-3, 4-6, 6-0.
Kevin Anderson (13), South Africa, def. Federico Delbonis, Argentina, 7-6 (5), 7-6 (5).
Albert Montanes, Spain, def. Bernard Tomic (15), Australia, 6-0, 5-7, 7-5.
Robert Farah, Colombia, def. Pablo Andujar (16), Spain, 7-6 (8), 4-6, 7-5.
Albert Ramos (17), Spain, def. Benoit Paire, France, 6-3, 7-5.
Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, def. Eduardo Schwank, Argentina, 6-3, 6-7 (4), 6-4.
Santaigo Giraldo, Colombia, def. Robin Haase, Netherlands, 6-4, 6-3.
Frederico Gil, Portugal, def. Joao Sousa, Portugal, 4-6, 6-4, 6-3.
Doubles — Second Round
Max Mirnyi, Belgium, and **Daniel Nestor (2), Toronto,** def. Robin Haase, Neth., & Jarkko Nieminen, Finland, 4-6, 6-4, 14-12 tiebreak.

BRD NASTASE TIRIAC TROPHY
At Bucharest, Romania
Singles — Second Round
Xavier Malisse, Belgium, def. Florian Mayer (2), Germany, 7-5, 4-6, 6-4.
Daniel Brands, Germany, def. Jurgen Zopp, Estonia, 7-6 (3), 6-3.
Attila Balazs, Hungary, def. Potito Starace, Italy, 6-3, 6-4.

WTA

PORSCHE GRAND PRIX
At Stuttgart, Germany
Singles — First Round
Caroline Wozniacki (6), Denmark, def. Jelena Jankovic, Serbia, 6-3, 1-0 retired.
Mona Barthel, Germany, def. Ana Ivanovic, Serbia, 7-5, 7-6 (4).
Akgul Amanmuradova, Uzebekistan, def. Dominika Cibulkova, Slovakia, 6-2, 5-7, 6-3.
Singles — Second Round
Maria Sharapova (2), Russia, def. Alize Cornet, France, 6-3, 1-0, retired.
Agnieszka Radwanska (4), Poland, def. Greta Arn, Hungary, 6-3, 6-4.

SAR GRAND PRIX
At Fez, Morocco
Singles — Second Round
Anabel Medina Garrigues (1), Spain, def. Mandy Minella, Luxembourg, 6-2, 6-3.
Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, def. Svetlana Kuznetsova (2), Rus., 1-6, 7-6 (4), 3-2, retired.
Petra Cetkovska (3), Czech Republic, def. Timea Bacsinszky, Switzerland, 6-3, 6-2.
Simona Halep (5), Romania, def. Alexandra Cadantu, Romania, 6-2, 7-5.
Kiki Bertens, Netherlands, def. Chanelle Scheepers (6), South Africa, 7-5, 1-6, 6-3.
Mathilde Johansson, France, def. Shahar Peer (8), Israel, 4-6, 6-3, 6-2.
Garbine Muguruza Blanco, Spain, def. Patricia Mayr-Achleitner, Austria, 6-4, retired.
Laura Pous-Tio, Spain, def. Arantxa Rus, Netherlands, 6-3, 7-5.

SOCCER

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
Kansas City	7	1	0	21	12	3
D.C.	3	2	3	12	12	8
New York	3	3	1	10	17	14
Chicago	2	1	2	8	6	6
Houston	2	1	2	8	5	5
Philadelphia	2	3	1	7	4	6
Columbus	2	3	1	7	6	9
New England	2	4	0	6	5	8
Montreal	1	5	2	5	7	15
Toronto	0	6	0	0	4	13

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	T	Pt	GF	GA
San Jose	5	1	1	16	13	5
Salt Lake	5	3	1	16	13	9
Vancouver	3	2	2	11	6	6
Seattle	3	1	1	10	6	2
Dallas	3	3	2	11	9	11
Los Angeles	3	3	0	9	10	10
Chivas USA	3	4	0	9	4	5
Colorado	3	4	0	9	8	10
Portland	2	4	1	7	9	11

Note: 3 points for victory, 1 point for tie.
Last night's result
Salt Lake 1 Dallas 1
Saturday's games
Portland at Montreal, 2 p.m.
New England at New York, 3:30 p.m.
San Jose at Philadelphia, 7 p.m.
Houston at D.C., 7:30 p.m.
Vancouver at Columbus, 7:30 p.m.
Seattle at Chicago, 8:30 p.m.
Toronto at Salt Lake, 9 p.m.
Chivas USA at Colorado, 9 p.m.
Dallas at Los Angeles, 10:30 p.m.
Wednesday, May 2
Colorado at New England, 8 p.m.
Los Angeles at Seattle, 10 p.m.
D.C. at San Jose, 10:30 p.m.
Friday, May 4
Chicago at Chivas USA, 11 p.m.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

SEMI-FINALS
Second Leg
Real Madrid (Spain) 2 Bayern Munich (Ger.) 1 (3-3 on aggregate, Bayern advances 3-1 on penalties)

LACROSSE

NLL

EAST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
x-Toronto	15	8	7	.533	186	185	-
x-Philadelphia	15	7	8	.467	169	198	1
x-Buffalo	15	6	9	.400	181	188	2
x-Rochester	15	6	9	.400	182	190	2

WEST DIVISION

	GP	W	L	Pct.	GF	GA	GB
y-Calgary	16	12	4	.750	216	170	-
x-Colorado	15	11	4	.733	204	185	½
x-Minnesota	15	8	7	.533	186	177	3½
x-Edmonton	15	6	9	.400	156	163	5½
Washington	15	4	11	.267	163	187	7½

x — clinched playoff berth.
WEEK 17
Saturday's games
Philadelphia at Rochester, 7:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Toronto at Edmonton, 9 p.m.
Buffalo at Washington, 10:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-Chicago	49	16	.754	—
y-Miami	46	19	.708	3
x-Indiana	42	24	.636	7½
y-Boston	38	27	.585	11
x-Atlanta	39	26	.600	10
x-Orlando	37	28	.569	12
x-New York	35	30	.538	14
x-Philadelphia	35	30	.538	14
Milwaukee	31	34	.477	18
Detroit	24	41	.369	25
New Jersey	22	43	.338	27
Toronto	22	43	.338	27
Cleveland	21	44	.323	28
Washington	19	46	.292	30
Charlotte	7	58	.108	42

WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
z-San Antonio	48	16	.750	—
y-Oklahoma City	47	19	.712	2
y-L.A. Lakers	41	24	.631	7½
x-Memphis	40	25	.615	8½
x-L.A. Clippers	40	26	.606	9
x-Denver	37	28	.569	11½
x-Dallas	36	29	.554	12½
x-Utah	35	30	.538	13½
Phoenix	33	32	.508	15½
Houston	33	32	.508	15½
Portland	28	37	.431	20½
Minnesota	26	39	.400	22½
Golden State	23	42	.354	25½
Sacramento	21	44	.323	27½
New Orleans	21	44	.323	27½

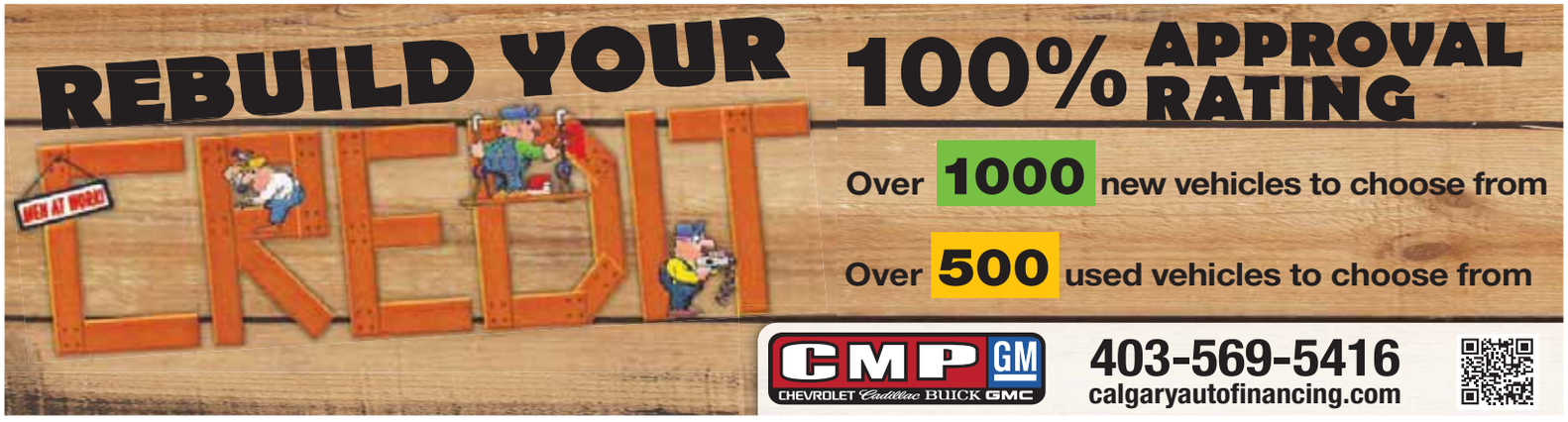
d — division leader; **x** — clinched playoff berth; **y** — clinched division

Last night's results
Washington 96 Cleveland 85
Chicago 92 Indiana 87
Orlando 102 Charlotte 95
Philadelphia 90 Milwaukee 85
Denver 106 Oklahoma City 101
New York 99 L.A. Clippers 93
San Antonio at Phoenix
Tuesday's results
Atlanta 109 L.A. Clippers 102
Oklahoma City 118 Sacramento 110
Boston 78 Miami 66
New Orleans 83 Golden State 81
Utah 100 Phoenix 88
Tonight's games
All times Eastern
New Jersey at Toronto, 7 p.m.
Portland at Utah, 8 p.m.
Cleveland at Chicago, 8 p.m.
New Orleans at Houston, 8 p.m.
Denver at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Orlando at Memphis, 8 p.m.
Dallas at Atlanta, 8 p.m.
Milwaukee at Boston, 8 p.m.
New York at Charlotte, 8 p.m.
Philadelphia at Detroit, 8 p.m.
Miami at Washington, 8 p.m.
San Antonio at Golden State, 10:30 p.m.
L.A. Lakers at Sacramento, 10:30 p.m.
END OF REGULAR SEASON

SCORING LEADERS

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Durant, OKC	65	631	428	1818	28.0
Bryant, LAL	58	574	381	1616	27.9
James, MIA	62	621	387	1683	27.1
Love, MIN	55	474	379	1432	26.0
Westbrook, OKC	65	568	331	1528	23.5
Anthony, NYK	54	434	292	1228	22.7
Aldridge, POR	55	483	223	1191	21.7
Nowitzki, DAL	61	466	311	1320	21.6
D. Williams, NJN	55	391	257	1154	21.0
Howard, ORL	54	416	281	1113	20.6
Griffin, LAC	65	550	237	1339	20.6

Last night's games not included



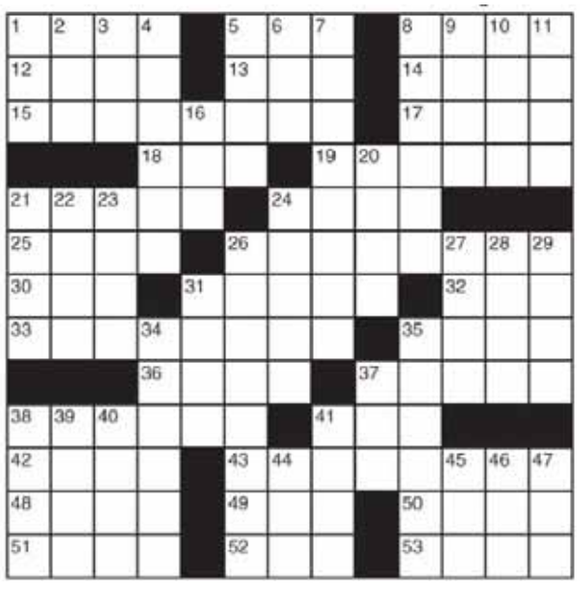
Crossword

Across

1 Big bash
5 Caviar, basically
8 Bunch of cronies
12 Shakespeare's river
13 Author Fleming
14 A-line creator
15 Traveler's verification
17 Oppositionist
18 Humor
19 Sought prey
21 Taken for granted
24 Smooch
25 Hebrew month
26 Superintendent's ringful
30 Prepared
31 Judge, often
32 Right-turn command
33 Long-popular game show
35 Dove's home
36 Potter's oven
37 Washbowl
38 Docking area
41 Charged particle
42 Particular
43 Seder time
48 Daytime drama
49 Baltimore newspaper
50 Tablet
51 Agile
52 Small lizard
53 Sweet potatoes

Down

1 Hiatus
2 Ms. Gardner
3 Part of UCLA
4 Response
5 Laugh-a-minute
6 Scull tool
7 Filled with zeal
8 Polish port city
9 "— Misbehavin' "
10 Staff member?
11 Grating
16 Wrestling victory
20 Abbr. on old Asian maps
21 React in horror
22 Notion
23 Cisterns
24 Wee Scot
26 Slippage, to an anatomist
27 Cooperation barriers
28 Bigfoot's cousin
29 Spotted
31 Clone
34 Covering hardly anything
35 Awning
37 Derek and Diddley
38 "— Congeniality"
39 On
40 Bring up
41 "— It Romantic?"
44 Wiedersehen preceder
45 By way of
46 Freddy's street
47 Literary monogram



Sudoku

			4				7	3
3	2				8			
8				9			2	4
	6			8		4		
2								9
		1		7			5	
9	8			6				7
			2				8	1
1	5				9			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's Sudoku

6	5	1	2	9	8	4	7	3
4	3	8	7	6	1	9	5	2
9	7	2	4	3	5	6	8	1
5	1	4	6	8	3	2	9	7
7	8	6	9	1	2	5	3	4
3	2	9	5	4	7	8	1	6
1	4	3	8	2	9	7	6	5
8	6	7	3	5	4	1	2	9
2	9	5	1	7	6	3	4	8

Yesterday's Crossword

Cryptoquip

How to play

This is a substitution cipher where one letter stands for another. Eg: If X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle.

MXCS KCQKIC BFC VEFYHSD QS B FQIICF VQBYLCF, VQEIN RQE YBR LXCR'FC YMCBFHSD EK BSN NQMS?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SHOULD A COMIC BOOK ABOUT SOME SUPER-POTENT BAKING STUFF GET TITLED "THE FANTASTIC FLOUR"?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals P

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Weather

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
MAX: 17° MIN: 7°	MAX: 7° MIN: 7°	MAX: 12° MIN: 1°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

ANDREW SCHULTZ
WEATHER SPECIALIST
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta".
WEEKDAYS 5:30 AM

Horoscope

Aries | March 21 - April 20. Any doubts you have about a financial deal come from your subconscious mind, which is trying to warn you not to get involved.

Taurus | April 21 - May 21. Common sense should tell you to be cautious today but as common sense is currently in limited supply, you probably won't listen.

Gemini | May 22 - June 20. You may be tempted to spend the day in your own private little bubble but let loved ones know.

Cancer | June 21 - July 22. Others will take what you say very seriously, even though to you it may be nothing more than a bit of fun.

Leo | July 23 - Aug. 22. Your imagination could get you into trouble today, especially on the work front.

Virgo | Aug. 23 - Sept. 22. Don't let anyone persuade you that you need to cut back on the many tasks you have set yourself.

Libra | Sept. 23 - Oct. 22. Avoid signing up for group projects. You will do better soldiering on alone, at least for now.

Scorpio | Oct. 23 - Nov. 21. Some people will be difficult to get along with today, not least because they are unsure of all the changes going on in your shared environment.

Sagittarius | Nov. 22 - Dec. 21. You may believe the best way to solve a problem is to scrap everything but that would be a waste of the time you have already invested.

Capricorn | Dec. 22 - Jan 20. You can no longer deny that you have been playing a role with which you no longer feel comfortable.

Aquarius | Jan. 21 - Feb 18. There will be disruption on the home front today, caused by a loved one's sense of grievance.

Pisces | Feb. 19 - March 20. If there is something important you need to say, make sure you choose your words carefully. Get to the point quickly too. SALLY BROMPTON

Caption Contest

"Don't worry, my bark is worse than my Battu!"
Jared

CHARLIE NEIBERGALL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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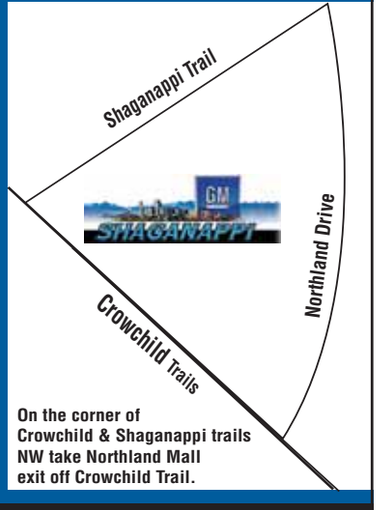

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